

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 799.—VOL. XVII.

SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1870.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

DROUGHTS AND DELUGES.

LONG-WISHED-FOR has come at last. Rain has fallen, and the parched and thirsty earth has enjoyed a refreshing, if not a copious, draught. Cloudy skies, gentle rains, and cooling breezes for a time succeeded to the fierce sunshine which had beaten upon us for so long. We are thinking more immediately, of course, of the region around London—of the district usually designated the home counties. But, though other portions of the kingdom were sooner favoured with a supply of moisture, the same remarks are more or less applicable everywhere. As drought had everywhere

prevailed, almost uninterruptedly, for three weary months, so men are in all quarters rejoicing over the welcome rains; though, it may be, all men's cry is still for more—as yet, at all events.

Things may change. Notwithstanding present appearances, the drought may be succeeded by a deluge, and the agriculturist be subject to a contrary source of anxiety. Weather prophets, indeed, are already foretelling a rainy August, when harvest work will be in progress, and superabundant moisture will be still more objectionable than even continued drought; and, according to the

law of averages and the natural rule of compensation, such a contingency is by no means improbable. It is tolerably well ascertained that a given average rainfall takes place each year; and, if less than the due proportion falls at one period, more than the due proportion must needs fall at another. That other may not include the ordinary harvest months; but, then, it may; and farmers would do well to prepare for such an eventuality, instead of giving themselves up to their usual devices in like circumstances—grumbling at the weather, magnifying apprehended mischief, and "raising the markets." Have they taken any measures



THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT READING: THE ROYAL CORTEGE PASSING THROUGH THE MARKET-PLACE.

with this object in view? Having failed to do aught to mitigate the effects of the recent drought, are they equally supine in face of a possible inopportune deluge? In other words, have British farmers done anything towards providing themselves with apparatus for artificially drying the grain, should a wet harvest season supervene on the long dry period through which we have just passed? Has all the discussion on this subject, which has now gone on for some years, which we take credit for having been among the first to start, and which eventuated in the invention of a very effective system by Mr. Gibbs (if we remember the name aright), been in vain? and are farmers still the same helpless—and complaining—waiters upon Providence they have ever been? We hope not. We trust that not a few farmers are now furnished with Mr. Gibbs's drying-sheds, and with all the other needful appliances for sending a hot blast through the dripping sheaves, and thus at once saving valuable food materials from grave deterioration, if not absolute destruction, and making the agriculturist, so far, independent of the changes of our variable and capricious climate. We say we hope many farmers are now so provided. But hope, we fear, tells a flattering tale far indeed from realisation; the fact, we suspect, being that very few farmers, if any, are so furnished, the discussions in the press and Mr. Gibbs's ingenuity having alike gone for nought. There is, however, still time to remedy the omission, if farmers set diligently to work. But, will they? or are their constitutional sluggishness and dislike of new ways too strong for self-interest and patriotic feeling combined?

And surely no higher patriotism can there be than first making the earth fruitful and then saving Nature's bounties when she has bestowed them. Nor can anything be so unpatriotic, as well as foolish, as to permit the food of man and beast to be injured or destroyed from lack of a little foresight on the part of those whose special mission in life is to till the soil and garner the fruits thereof. Yet we make bold to say that this most unpatriotic of deeds is year after year perpetrated on a large scale by British farmers and British landowners out of sheer ignorance, stupidity, or indifference: to their own great injury as well as that of the general community. As a rule, the farmer's entire energies are devoted to production; preservation he seems to look upon as no part of his duty. He takes no precautions against droughts and deluges. He sows his seeds and lays down his grass lands; and then leaves them to be scorched up with drought, if dry weather and a burning sun should prevail in spring and summer. Similarly, he cuts down his crops; and then leaves them on the ground to rot, if the windows of heaven be opened a little wider than ordinary, and more than usually copious rains should fall in autumn. He buys in stock, expends his store of fodder in keeping them through the winter, trusting to the grasses of spring and summer for their further sustenance, without taking any adequate measures to secure a supply of grass in those seasons; and, if a drought comes, he stands helplessly by, and sees his cattle perish from thirst before his eyes. In this way he inflicts serious loss upon himself, and still more serious suffering upon his neighbours and customers—the consumers of his products. True, he gets high prices for what he does manage to bring to market; but he should remember, looking at the matter even from the lowest point of view, that high prices never compensate for short produce. The farmer may get an extra ten or fifteen shillings per quarter for his wheat, for instance, in a year of scarcity; but then it would have been better for him to be able to sell three or four quarters in place of every two, even though the price should only have been forty-five or fifty shillings, instead of sixty-five or seventy. There is no supernal wisdom in all this. So far, the farmer understands the matter as well as anyone else. What he does not understand, or forgets, is that it rests with himself to a large degree whether he shall place only two quarters of wheat or three or four in the miller's hands, and whether he shall send one fat beast or two to the butcher; that is to say, he fails to comprehend that he can, and ought to, take hostages against the caprices of the climate he lives in by providing for seasons of drought on the one hand, and seasons of deluge on the other.

The long continuance of dry weather this year has again called attention to a notion we ventured to moot in these columns a considerable time ago, but towards realising which nothing has yet been done. We refer to the propriety of storing up the superfluous moisture of winter for irrigation purposes in summer, instead of letting it run off into rivers and so to the sea, and thus be lost to man, unless nature shall happen to return it to him in the form of showers exactly when it happens to be required—a contingency which, as this season and that of 1868 have proved, is not to be relied upon. We are glad to find that this matter is now being discussed in several newspapers besides our own, the feasibility of the notion and its practicality being generally admitted, the only difficulties started relating to matters of detail and questions as to who ought to bear the necessary first outlay—tenant or landlord. Some writers appear to fancy that the expense would not be great, but, for our own part, we are inclined to think that to make the work really effective considerable outlay would be required. It may be, too, that a partial revolution in the accepted system of cropping would be involved. Storage ponds would have to be constructed on such points of elevation as would command the fields sought to be irrigated; pumping apparatus, driven by steam, by windmills, or by the force of the streams themselves, might be required, either to lift the water into the store ponds at first, or to distribute it afterwards. These, however, are matters of

mechanical contrivance with which we cannot pretend to deal. We leave them, and commend them, to the attention of engineers of inventive genius, satisfied that, as infinitely greater difficulties have been overcome by that order of men than any that exist here, some among them will solve the problems involved if sufficient inducements be offered. Of this we are certain, that a system of storage and irrigation such as we propose is possible, for we have seen it in operation on a small scale even in England; it is practised on a large scale in other countries; and therefore is not impossible here, to any desired extent. When water is required to be stored for commercial or manufacturing purposes, it is done. Why should not the same be accomplished for agricultural uses also? We have heard complaints that the thorough drainage effected so extensively of late years has injured the land by carrying off its proper store of moisture. But this, we think, is a mistake. Well-drained soils, to begin with, are more friable than those sodden with wet at one time, and baked into brick-like hardness at another, and so permit water, however applied, to sink more readily into the earth and so reach the plant-roots. Besides, the drains are under the farmer's control, and can be used as feeders of the store ponds; thus serving two good ends at a small extra expense, if any.

As to the cost, that, perhaps, ought to be a landlords' affair, seeing that the works must necessarily be permanent, while the ultimate advantage would be theirs. At all events, it is not likely that yearly tenants, as most occupiers of land in England are, will be inclined to make such large investments of capital as might be called for; and, indeed, it is not reasonable to expect that they should. Landlords, however, by making part of the cost of irrigation works a permanent charge upon their property, might greatly benefit themselves, their successors, their tenants, and the nation at large. With them, too, would rest the duty of permitting such changes in the mode of cropping as may be required for the convenient working of the system. Hay, turnips, oats, barley, and other crops that require large supplies of moisture, might be grown in fields contiguous to the storage ponds, and therefore more easily commanded; while wheat, mangold, and such things as manage to thrive in a dry soil, might be relegated to remoter quarters: questions about rotation of crops being waived, and a system of manuring adopted suited to the changed condition of affairs. We only offer these as hints to be worked out by men of ingenuity and enterprise, whether they be landlords or tenants.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT READING.

The Prince and Princess of Wales went to Reading on Friday, July 1, to lay the first stone of a new grammar-school. Naturally the inhabitants spared no effort and grudged no expense to give a fitting welcome to the distinguished visitors on their first visit. For a whole week previous the event was the prominent topic. From the moment when the first batch of Corporation labourers sallied out to plant posts and barriers in the streets, to the last finishing touches, a few minutes before the Royal personages appeared on the scene, a succession of preparations increased the general excitement. With the exception of Chester, where the antiquated buildings and quaint streets give advantages not possessed by other towns, we have not amongst the many Royal progresses it has been our duty to recount seen decorations so effective or a reception more thoroughly English. Reading has few remarkable habitations, at least in its chief thoroughfares, but its hilly streets and irregular form peculiarly qualify it for the kind of ornament to be exhibited. Everything was based upon a modest pretension, and, as there was nothing mean in the administrative details, the sight which greeted the eyes of the Prince and Princess and the invading host of strangers who followed in their train was pleasing in the extreme.

Their Royal Highnesses assisted in something more than an ornamental street display, inasmuch as they gave their encouragement to a work which must have the best wishes of every citizen. Long ago, in the reign of Henry VII., a free grammar-school was founded in the borough. The building stood, and stands to this day, on that elevated promenade so loved by the inhabitants, the Forbury; but, for causes which need not be now inquired into, the building has outlived the school. When Dr. Valpy reigned revered monarch of the teaching establishment, the Reading Grammar-School was one of the boasts of Berkshire. Visitors are told, in enthusiastic terms, that Talfourd, the just Judge and genial *litterateur*, was educated in the confined hall, and that on the list of old boys may be seen the names of the present Bishop of London and many other men of eminence. After Dr. Valpy's death, the scholars fell off; the character of the school faded, and at length one solitary youngster only answered to the master's call. In these days of educational agitation such a state of things of course was not to be tolerated; and some local gentlemen, having been aroused to a sense of their duty, vigorously set to work to keep pace with the times, and the result is the revival of a free grammar school, which, it is to be hoped, will be what so many similar foundations are not—namely, free in spirit as well as letter—and which will, at the same time, be able to answer the full requirements of the town and county to which it was given. True, not quite half of the £20,000 to be spent in the new works has yet been raised; but in rich, aristocratic Berkshire, it is impossible that fears can be entertained as to the remainder. Rarely does a list of gifts show so handsomely as this—as for example, Mr. R. Benyon, the high steward, £500; Mr. J. H. Balgrave, the High Sheriff, 500 guineas; Sir J. H. Goldsmith, £500; Mr. Councillor Monck, £500; Mr. Alderman Palmer, £500; Messrs. J. and C. Simonds, £500; Messrs. H. and G. Simonds, £500; Messrs. Stephens and Blandy, £500; Mr. Walter, M.P., Mr. M. Sutton, and Colonel Loyd-Lindsay, M.P., £300 each; Mr. Alderman Harris, Mr. W. J. Palmer, and the Town Clerk (Mr. F. Rogers), £200 each; Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Mr. S. Palmer, the Mayor (Mr. Peter Stokes), Mr. A. Waterhouse, and Mr. A. Waterhouse, jun., £100 each; and numerous donations of £50 and under. The school will be a handsome piece of Gothic architecture, from designs by Mr. Waterhouse.

The proverbially clean and open streets of the town were tenanted early in the morning by the peculiar kind of throng that such a town alone can ensure—provincial humanity in all its variety, freshness of face, heartiness of appreciation, and the absence of the carpings, chaffing temper which a cockney or metropolitan crowd suffers or affects. Hundreds of rustics sauntered up and down dumb with wonder; the next grade of rural society—the small farmer and village tradesman—hurriedly placed the two-wheel carts and sturdy Dobbins in the inns, and discussed the decorations *seriatim*, bewildered as to which most to

admire. At the open windows the well-to-do inhabitants, surrounded by friends from Newbury and the other towns, and from London, appeared radiant with ribbons and summer dresses, while aristocratic visitors in select clusters might be noticed here and there at the chief hotels and in the suburbs. Probably, there were never so many flags flying in so small a space. They broke out like measles over the face of every house, and fluttered one against another a very restless army of banners. The route of the Royal progress was extended over about two miles; and to say that there were five times that length of festoons suspended from posts would hardly be beyond the mark. In one thoroughfare the decorators, in an outburst of thoroughness, had planted trees tall as the roofs from end to end on both sides of the way. In the Market-place enormous hanging baskets swung overhead full of flowers and plants, with groves of Virginia creeper hanging gracefully downwards. Prince of Wales's plumes had evidently been a subject of neighbourly rivalry, and they stared you in the face in paper, in flowers, in wool, in plaster, and we are not sure that it might not be added, in tallow. At the brow of a hill a large fountain, which had been built "for this occasion only," played as if it had been resolved that its day, though short, should be merry. Chief amongst the floral devices were masses of large white lilies, relieved by the poet laureate's favourite tiger lily. Triumphal arches were numerous along the route.

Just before half-past twelve a British standard was hoisted on the tower of grey St. Lawrence's Church, and the Crimean gun on the Forbury-hill notified the Royal arrival to several miles of country. At the Great Western station there were the well-known features and incidents—spaces kept sternly clear, policemen and porters eager and busting, red carpets, the contents of several greenhouses, directors and local dignitaries with respectful obeisances suggested in their whole being, and men and boys perched upon spots where one would have thought a bat might have been puzzled to find squatting-room. Then we had the cry of "Here they come!" falsely raised six times, truthfully the seventh; then a doffing of hats and a striking of attitudes on the platform. Then the actual arrival, cheers, and music, military salutes by the Berks Militia, who formed the guard of honour, more bows and cheers, the last bars of "God Save the Queen," and cries of "Hush!" Silence was thought to be necessary for the Mayor, who, with the Corporation at his rear and the Mayress by his side, received the Prince and Princess with a formal address of welcome. Solemnly preceded by the macebearer, the Mayor at once conducted his guests to their carriage, the populace vociferously testifying their approval of the act, and the militia band briskly playing the Danish National Hymn. The procession which preceded the Royal carriage was not only long but well ordered. The yeomanry cavalry, miscellaneous horsed as our yeomanry generally are, were the pioneers. Following them were members of the Philanthropic Society and the Foresters; a few of the latter wore the costume for which the late Robin Hood is supposed to have had a weakness, and the detachment carried the familiar flag, which represents a weeping widow clutching a tombstone—a subject that would be very touching if the bold painting of the "middle distance" did not make it inexpressibly droll. The Oddfellows' lodges were shorn somewhat of their proper share of glory by the close following of the Freemasons, who mustered very strong, and were clad in the handsome insignia of their order. Militia, police, civic banners, town wardens with staves, and seven carriages devoted to the Town Council came next. The Royal carriages and the carriages of the suite succeeded, and other carriages and more soldiery brought up the rear. The demonstrations of the townspeople throughout could not have been more hearty, and the Royal objects of them were kept smiling and bowing the whole way. In Kendrick-road 3000 school children sang "God Bless the Prince of Wales," and waved their bannerets and cheered shrill and often. The Berks volunteers were the guard of honour in the tent where the ceremony was to take place. State chairs were placed in the centre on a dais, privileged visitors occupied seats opposite, and the Freemasons the gallery behind. The Prince appeared in his Masonic apparel, and with him were the Duke and Duchess of Manchester, Marquis Hamilton, and General Sir W. Knollys. The Bishop of Oxford, Sir F. Goldsmith and Mr. Shaw Lefevre (the members of the borough), and Lord Cork were present. The Mayor, the Recorder, and the Town Clerk first presented an address to the Prince, setting forth the history of the school, its prospects, and the hopes and expectations of the gentlemen who are to conduct it in the future. The Prince read his reply, expressing the pleasure he and the Princess felt in visiting a town so conspicuous as Reading in the pages of English history, his gratification at co-operating with the townsmen in the revival of the school, and his conviction that in offering the advantages of a middle-class education, the Mayor and his twelve co-trustees were providing that which, if conducted on sound principles, must conduce to the welfare and happiness of all who desire to profit by it. The school, he said, would at least prove to a succeeding generation that we on our part had striven with all our hearts and means to ripen the good seed sown by our fathers.

Mrs. Spokes, the Mayress, presented to the Princess a beautiful and novel souvenir of her visit to Reading. It was a fan in the Louis XIV. style, with the Royal arms, the borough arms, the address of welcome, a view of the new school, and a sketch of the old gateway of the abbey. This elegant work of art, like the illuminated volume in which the address was emblazoned, was profusely decorated, and had been made for the Corporation by Messrs. Howell and James, of Regent-street. The remainder of the ceremony was Masonic, and full of that rich symbol which makes all Masonic ceremonies so interesting to the general public. The grand director of ceremonies having proclaimed silence, the Mayor (now Brother Spokes) asked the Prince to lay the stone with a trowel presented by the Reading Freemasons as a mark of their fraternal esteem. The architect handed in his designs, the grand chaplain offered prayer, the grand secretary read the inscription, the grand treasurer deposited a vessel full of coins, the Town Clerk (as Brother Rogers) deposited another vessel containing records, and a special hymn to a tune composed by the Prince's father was sung. An entered apprentice came in with a dainty tray of cement, and the Prince, surrounded by the grand officers, Sir Daniel Gooch being the chief, stood to the east of the stone and applied the plumb and level. In setting the stone, he said:—"May the Great Architect of the Universe enable us successfully to carry on and finish the work of which we have now laid the principal stone, and every other undertaking which may tend to the advantage of the borough of Reading and this neighbourhood! and may this school be long preserved from peril and decay, diffusing its light and influence to generations yet unborn!" The Brethren, with one accord, responded, "So mote it be!" Receiving a cornucopia and two golden ewers, the Prince poured corn, and wine, and oil on the stone, saying, conformably to ancient custom, "May the bountiful hand of Heaven ever supply this country with abundance of corn, wine, and oil, and all the necessities and comforts of life!" The Brethren replied as before. The treasurer, finally, gave a purse of gold to the master builder, remarking that it was the pleasure of the Prince that those who had hewed the stones and laid them, and assisted therein, should "rejoice in the light." The Bishop of Oxford read prayers and pronounced the benediction. As the Royal-party returned to their carriages, the Reading Philharmonic Society, aided by the band of the Grenadiers, performed the Hallelujah Chorus. The procession returned to the Townhall, where luncheon was provided. The Prince, who of late has discarded the use of notes or manuscript in ordinary speechmaking, briefly and aptly acknowledged the toast of his health. He congratulated the Mayor and inhabitants upon "the marked success with which every detail of these proceedings had been carried out, adding that nothing could have been better than the decorations of the houses and streets, the ceremonial arrange-

ments, and the déjeuner. He hoped also that the Berkshire people would take an interest in the school which his ancestor had founded. He proposed the health of the Mayor before sitting down, and after that toast had been duly honoured the company broke up, and their Royal Highnesses returned to town by special train. Just as the ceremony in the tent was at an end the rain fell heavily, and the rest of the outdoor proceedings were necessarily marred thereby.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

In the Chamber, last Saturday, the report of the Committee on the petition of the Orleans Princes was read. The report stated that, although the return of the Princes would not be a source of danger, it would be a cause of trouble and agitation. The Government, therefore, requested that the petition should be rejected. In the debate which followed, M. Ollivier was asked whether any proof existed that the Orleans family had conspired since 1848. He said that the Government had nothing to reply. M. Ollivier afterwards defended on principle the exile of the Princes, and declared that they had never given in their adhesion to the existing state of things in France. The plebiscitum, he maintained, had confided the preservation of order and liberty to the Emperor. The people desired peace and repose, and the Government could not permit the return of the Orleans family while the French people forbade it. M. Jules Favre took exception to these views, but the House rejected the petition by 174 to 81 votes.

The *Official Journal* publishes the supplementary convention, signed on June 18, to the Anglo-French postal treaty, reducing the postage between England and France.

The *Figaro* is to be prosecuted for an apocryphal anecdote asserting that Lord Clarendon lent 100,000 francs to the Emperor when Prince Bonaparte, and that the interest of the loan consisted in the conclusion of the Anglo-French commercial treaty.

SPAIN.

There was a fight between the populace and some Carlist partisans last Saturday night. It lasted from 9.30 p.m. till 12.30 a.m. At half-past one o'clock on Sunday morning Senor Ochoa, on leaving the Carlist Casino, was fired at eleven successive times, but was not wounded. He next day addressed a letter of complaint on the subject to the President of the Cortes.

BELGIUM.

The Ministry has been definitely constituted as follows:—Baron d'Anethan, Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs; M. Cornesse, Justice; M. Kervyn, Interior; M. Tack, Finance; M. Jacobs, Public Works; M. Guillaume, War.

THE NETHERLANDS.

In last Saturday's sitting of the second Chamber the Naturalisation Bill came on for discussion. The Minister of Justice stated that, England having modified her naturalisation laws, the Government would henceforward find no difficulty in proposing the naturalisation of English subjects who should be desirous of taking that step.

ROME.

Advices from Rome in the Florence papers state that in consequence of the excessive heat the number of Bishops who are ill is continually increasing. On all sides it is urged that the meetings of the Council should be suspended, and a formal request to that effect has been presented to the President. It is proposed that during the adjournment commissions should be appointed to examine and prepare some of the most difficult questions for discussion, and that the Council should not meet again until October. Meanwhile the discussion on the infallibility scheme goes on.

AUSTRIA.

A State trial began on Monday at Vienna. Fourteen workmen are charged with high treason. The Public Prosecutor, in his opening address, explained that the prisoners belonged to a committee which was engaged in spreading a Socialist-Democratic agitation in Austria; that they were in communication with trade unions in foreign countries, and, in conjunction with the latter, aimed at the overthrow of all social and State institutions. During the trial a large number of working men gathered in front of the Courthouse, but there was no disturbance of order.

GREECE.

According to the *Indépendance Italienne*—a Florence paper—a Ministerial crisis has taken place at Athens. Some of the Greek Ministers think that a limit should be fixed to the inquiry into the causes of the massacres at Marathon, while others are of opinion that there should be no limit, as the dignity and interests of Greece are at stake.

TURKEY.

The Khedive has arrived in Constantinople on a visit to the Sultan.

The Government has not accepted the offer of the Relief Fund Committee to reimburse it for the 28,000 livres expended during the late fire.

THE UNITED STATES.

The Senate has rejected an amendment of Mr. Sumner to the naturalisation laws by which the Chinese would have been admitted to the rights of citizenship. It was urged that were this to take place the institutions of the country would be endangered, and a conflict of races would ensue. The Indians are also excluded. Another amendment extending the rights of citizenship to persons of African birth or descent was carried by 31 votes to 20. The Senate has also rejected the San Domingo Treaty by 28 to 48 votes, a two-thirds vote being required. The rejection of the treaty does not affect the protocol for the lease of Samana Bay.

In the House of Representatives, General Butler proposed a resolution requesting the President to demand of Great Britain under what right, and by whose orders, American fishing-vessels are arrested and detained in their voyages through the Straits and at the Banks of Newfoundland on their way to the fishing grounds. The resolution was adopted.

Preliminary steps have been taken for adding another State (the thirty-eighth) to the American Union. The State is to be called Lincoln, in honour of the late President, and it consists of the territory of New Mexico. This territory contains 124,500 square miles, and has a population of 93,516, of which 10,537 are Indians.

New York telegrams announce on official authority that a general outbreak is expected on the part of the Indians on the line of the Pacific Railroad, and that the Yanckton and Sioux tribes are taking the war path. General Sherman is sending cavalry reinforcements to the west. A telegram from Salt Lake reports that, on June 15, as a train on the Pacific Railway approached the Platte river, the engine-driver discovered a band of 300 Indians crossing the line. As the train neared them they began to yell, and, supposing they were about to attack the train, full steam was put on, driving it through the band at full speed, and killing thirteen of them. Numerous Indian outrages are reported from the Wyoming territory.

INDIA.

The press continues to condemn severely the mode in which the income tax is being assessed.

The Government of Bengal is considering the question of devising a scheme for levying an educational cess.

A large meeting of natives was held in Calcutta, last Saturday, when resolutions were passed condemning the policy of the Government in withdrawing State aid from English education. The draught of a memorial to the Duke of Argyll was adopted.

THE WIMBLEDON PRIZE MEETING will begin on Monday next. The preparations for the gathering are in a forward state,

THE SPANISH CROWN.

It is announced from Madrid that the crown of Spain is at length accepted by one of the candidates to whom it has been offered. This candidate is stated to be Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, an elder brother of Prince Charles of Roumania. Prince Leopold was born in 1835, and is a Colonel in the 1st Regiment of Prussian Foot Guards. He is married to a sister of the King of Portugal. It is further announced that the Cabinet has authorised the Minister for Foreign Affairs to open such negotiations as may be deemed expedient with regard to the candidature of the Prince of Hohenzollern. The Regent approves of what has been done; and it is stated that the Cortes, instead of remaining adjourned until October, are to meet on the 22nd inst., and the election is to take place on Aug. 1.

This new arrangement for filling the vacant throne of Spain has given great offence in Paris, where jealousy of Prussian aggrandisement is exceedingly strong. On Wednesday M. Cochery put a question to the Government on the subject, when the following proceedings took place. The Duke de Gramont said:—"It is true that General Prim has offered the crown of Spain to the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, and that the latter has accepted the offer; but the Spanish people has not yet pronounced its wishes on the subject. We are not privy to the details of the negotiations which have been carried on, and which have been kept secret from us; consequently, we beg the Chamber to adjourn a discussion which would lead to nothing. We have never ceased to show our sympathies for the Spanish people, while avoiding the appearance of interfering in the affairs of a great nation in the exercise of its sovereignty. We have not transgressed the limits of strict neutrality in reference to the pretenders to the Spanish throne. We shall persist in this line of conduct, but we do not believe that respect for the rights of a neighbouring people obliges us to suffer a foreign Power by placing a prince upon the throne of Charles V. to disturb the European equilibrium to our disadvantage, and thus to imperil the interests and the honour of France. We entertain a firm hope that this will not happen. To prevent it we count upon the wisdom of the German nation and the friendship of the people of Spain; but, in the contrary event, with your support and the support of the nation, we shall know how to do our duty without hesitation or weakness." M. Picard demanded that all documents of a nature to enlighten the public mind should be communicated to the Chamber, adding that the country must not be drawn into a new political situation without the assent of its representatives. M. Chevandier de Valdrome replied that the proper time for a discussion had not arrived, and that the Government was unable to make any further declaration at present. M. Crémieux insisted upon M. Picard's demand for papers being complied with. M. Emile Ollivier refused to accede to M. Crémieux's request, and added:—"The declaration made by the Duke de Gramont betrays no uncertainty as to the question whether the Government desires peace or war. The Government wishes for peace passionately, but with honour. The Ministry is convinced that the Duke de Gramont's statement will bring about a peaceful solution; for whenever Europe is persuaded that France is firm in her legitimate duty it does not resist her desire. There is no question here of a hidden object; and if a war be necessary the Government will not enter upon it without the assent of the Legislative Body, for we live under a Parliamentary régime. I affirm, upon my honour, that there exists no *arrière pensée* when we say that we desire peace, and when we give expression to our conviction that if all party distinctions are obliterated there will be peace." M. Barthélémy asked in what character General Prim undertook to offer the crown of Spain to a Prussian Prince. M. Ollivier replied that the Government knew nothing of the negotiations. M. Arago then endeavoured to speak, but the House refused to hear him, and the resumption of the discussion on the Budget was ordered. M. Magnin, however, who had inscribed his name to address the House on financial questions, relinquished his right in consideration of the statement made by the Duke de Gramont. The speeches of the Ministers of Justice and Foreign Affairs on the Spanish question were warmly and almost unanimously cheered, and great excitement prevailed, the resumption of the debate on the Budget being suspended for some time, and the deputies gathering in groups and carrying on very animated conversations.

The Paris *Constitutionnel* of Thursday, commenting on the reception by the Legislative Body of the declaration of the Duke de Gramont, yesterday, says:—"The Government has done what was its duty to do, and has replied in a dignified manner to an intrigue which it rightly considered both an insult and a menace. It has replied to Prussia, who imagined our patience to be everlasting; and to Prim, who was in hopes to play with us. The candidature of the Prince of Hohenzollern was an act of hostility, of which a vigilant Government had to take note. At the present moment the peace of Europe depends upon Prussia and Spain. Advices received last night gave reason to hope that Spanish patriotism would aid Prim in withdrawing from his present position, since we understand that the most eminent members of the Spanish Liberal party disavow his manoeuvres. If the Spanish people should spontaneously reject the King whom it is sought to thrust upon them, we shall no longer have anything to demand of Prussia, and order would be restored without any of the three Powers having to grant or exact concessions. This is the only solution we desire."

MR. WHEATON, a general merchant, of Exeter, was fined £20, on Tuesday, for sending a barrel of gunpowder by the London and South-Western Railway without marking on the outside of the barrel the nature of its contents, or giving written notice to the company of what the barrel contained.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, rewards were granted to the crews of the different life-boats for services on the occasion of shipwrecks on our coasts. The Arundel Venables life-boat, at Arklow, Ireland, went off to the schooner Enchantress, of Belfast, which had struck on the Arklow bank during a strong north-westerly wind, and took off the crew of four men. The Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Ormes Head, and Lytham life-boats had also recently been launched on service. £3 was voted to Mr. John Connell, chief boatman of her Majesty's coastguard at Tallaghan, Ireland, and four other men, for putting off in a coastguard boat in a strong wind and heavy sea to the assistance of four men, whose boat had capsized on the bar on April 1 last. Various other rewards were likewise granted to the crews of different shore-boats for saving life from wrecks on the coasts of the United Kingdom. Payments amounting to about £1900 were ordered to be made on various life-boats; and, to meet in part those heavy expenses, £1000 stock of the funded capital of the institution was ordered to be sold. With 220 life-boats under its management, the expenses of the institution continue to be very large. The committee expressed their deep sympathy with the family of the late Mr. Charles Dickens, on the occasion of his much-lamented death, as he, from the commencement of his weekly publications, in conjunction with his steadfast and affectionate friend, Mr. W. H. Wills, had never ceased to help forward the work of the institution. Various works at life-boat stations were also ordered to be carried out, at a cost of £352. Twenty guineas had been received from the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors. Contributions had also been remitted to the society from its branches at Birmingham, Swansea, Alloa, Stirling, and Newark. The late Mrs. Rolleston, of Swindon, who had long been a subscriber of £20 a year to the institution, had left it a legacy of £500. New life-boats had just been sent by the society to Clovelly, North Devon, and Ardrossan, Scotland; and on the arrival of the boats at their stations they had been warmly welcomed—the demonstration on the occasion of the launch of the Ardrossan life-boat being of a very imposing character. A new life-boat establishment was also ordered to be formed in Morte Bay, near Ilfracombe. The shipmasters of the port of Bristol in the African trade had expressed their intention of presenting the entire cost of a life-boat station to the society and of contributing £50 annually towards its support. Reports were read from Captain J. R. Ward, R.N., the inspector, and Captain D. Robertson, R.N., the assistant inspector of life-boats to the institution, who had recently (respectively) been engaged on tours of inspection of the life-boats on the west coast of England and the Scotch coast, most of which they found in very good order. The proceedings then terminated.

THE DUDLEY STUART HOME FOR THE HOUSELESS.

The annual meeting of the friends of this charity was held, on Monday, at the institution, Market-street, Edgware-road, when Sir Charles E. Trevelyan, K.C.B., took the chair. Amongst those present were Mrs. Gladstone; Mrs. Jackson, wife of the Bishop of London (who regretted his inability to attend); Lady Frederick Cavendish, Lady Coleridge, Lady Rogers, the Earl of Harrowby; the Rev. G. F. Prescott, M.A., Vicar of St. Michael's; Colonel Walker, the Rev. R. I. Salmon, Mr. Dudley Smith, Dr. Randall, &c. Letters of apology for non-attendance, and expressing sympathy with the objects of the meeting, were read from the Earl of Lichfield; Sir J. D. Coleridge, M.P. (who is suffering from indisposition); and Mr. Arthur Mills, who had hoped to take part in the proceedings. It appeared from the report of the committee, read by the chaplain and secretary (the Rev. Charles L. Butler, M.A.), that the main objects of the institution, as distinguished from those of a nightly refuge, on which account it is now called "The Dudley Stuart Home for the Houseless," are—first, to investigate carefully the characters and antecedents of all homeless and destitute persons who may apply for admission, referring them, meanwhile, to the neighbouring workhouses, which now provide a good nightly refuge and food for all applicants; and, secondly, to provide for all who bear this test a temporary home and every necessary assistance towards obtaining suitable employment, or being restored to friends, if they have any who will provide for them. During the past year there have been in the home 252 persons of various conditions of life, selected out of more than twice that number, whose cases were investigated. Of these 127 obtained situations and were provided with necessary clothing (to be repaid by their employers out of their first earnings), twenty were restored to their friends, twenty-seven sent to other institutions more suitable to their cases, and fifty discharged without any further benefit than obtaining a comfortable home and wholesome food for several weeks under such moral and religious influence as the home afforded to all its inmates. These figures, however, give a very inadequate idea of the work accomplished by the charity, as much of the chaplain's time was occupied in investigating the cases of unworthy applicants who were fostered by indiscriminate almsgiving, and also in assisting persons who were ineligible for admission to this institution by directing them to others better adapted to their condition. As it was expected that very many additional cases of homeless wanderers would now be referred to this institution by the new "Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity," increased funds were appealed for, as well as personal assistance in the way of obtaining situations for the inmates. The report further stated that, by the assistance of an anonymous friend, the chaplain had been enabled, without drawing on the funds of the charity, to provide a separate dormitory for four women, to be employed in the kitchen and laundry, apart from the other inmates; thus testing by actual work some of the applicants whose characters were not sufficiently satisfactory without such proof, though not so bad as to justify their rejection altogether; while it had provided, at the cost of maintenance, a regular staff of servants, and this promised to be not the least important part of the charity if funds were obtained for its continuance. The total receipts during the year had been £1168 9s., and the expenditure £1173 6s. 6d., leaving a balance against the institution of £4 17s. 6d. Resolutions in support of the charity, having been spoken to by the chairman, Lord Harrowby, Mr. E. Holland, the Rev. G. F. Prescott, and Mr. Dudley Smith, were adopted; and the proceedings terminated with the customary vote of thanks to the chairman.

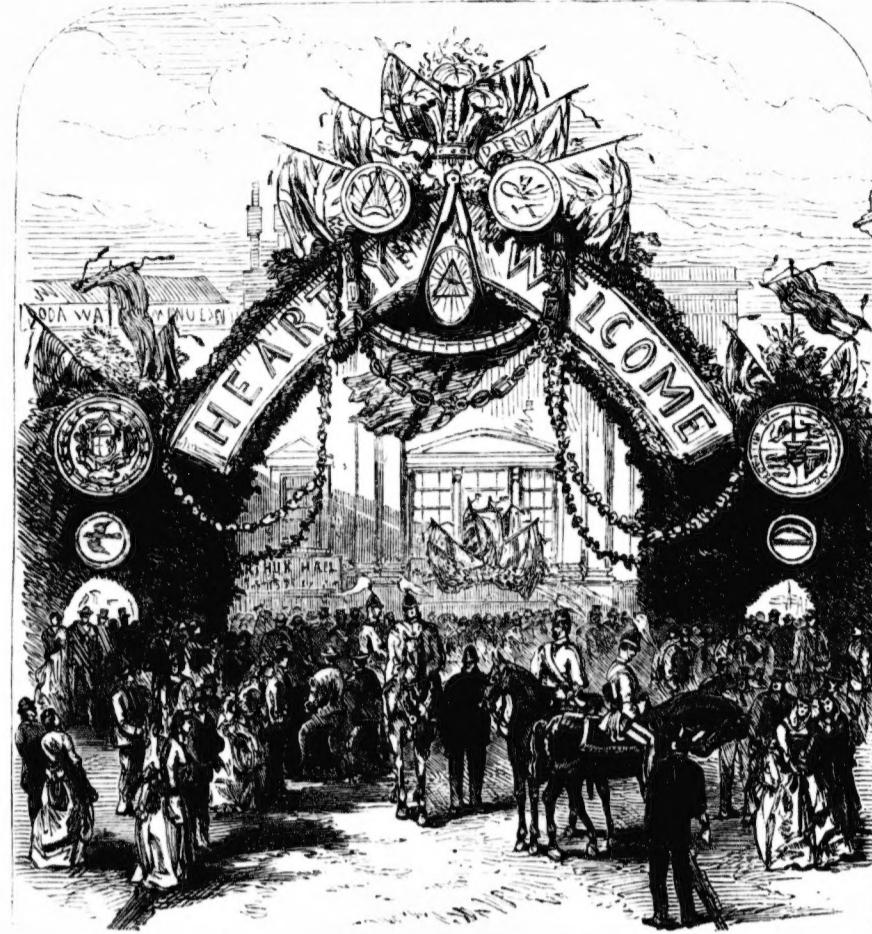
EQUALITY.—A circumstance that occurred at the past Lyons races is causing some discussion in the Paris press. It appears that at the approaches to the racecourse the gendarmes on duty were instructed to keep carriages in a single line with a view to prevent disorder. A sub-officer refused to allow one carriage to deviate from the rank, and an altercation followed between him and the driver, who, however, was ultimately compelled to take his place in the line. The occupant of the carriage thus deprived of exceptional privilege was the General Comte de Palikao (de Montauban), the General commanding the district, but as he was not in uniform, and was personally unknown to the gendarme, who had only been recently attached to that station, he was unable to enforce submission upon the conscientious official. The latter, however, was soon made to feel the consequence of the ignorant and undiscriminating sense of duty, for, notwithstanding the tendered evidence of independent witnesses, he was condemned to fifteen days' imprisonment, and, after twenty years' service, to degradation to the ranks. It is expected that a question will be asked in the Chamber of the Minister of War upon the subject.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.—A public meeting was held at the Mansion House, on Monday, in aid of the Bishop of London's Fund. The Lord Mayor presided, and among those who took part in the proceedings were the Bishop of London, Lord Shaftesbury, Lord Harrowby, the Rev. W. Cadman, Mr. George Moore, and others. The Lord Mayor, in his opening remarks, said that one main obstacle to the success of the fund was the non-residence of many of the endowed clergy in the city of London, and the other was the playing at Popery in some of the City churches. He knew it was a difficult thing to deal with that, but he wanted to see the Bishop of London and those with whom he acted go to the Legislature and ask for more power to deal with men who, while eating the bread of Protestantism, were playing the game of Popery. That should be the answer, so far as the city of London was concerned, to the Ecumenical Council. The Bishop of London, in moving a resolution to the effect that the great spiritual destitution of London which still remained unrelieved called for vigorous efforts on the part of all interested in the welfare of their poorer brethren, stated that the executive committee of the fund were receiving on an average about £40,000 a year, but that was very inadequate for the great work before them. The right rev. prelate answered in some detail the matters to which the Lord Mayor had alluded as obstacles to the work, and expressed a hope that they would not be used to the detriment of the fund, feeling too painfully, as he did, how much it had lost by the substitution of himself for Bishop Tait. He urged the meeting not to forget that it was a fund for the relief of the spiritual destitution of the poor of the metropolis, large numbers of whom lived outside the City; and he admitted that the Union of Benefices Act, which was designed for the relief of such destitution beyond its walls, had practically proved unworkable. Lord Shaftesbury said it was not the buildings they wanted, but a new order of men and new methods and operations in the service of the Church. He wanted the Church to enlist the great mass of the loyalty and education of every rank and degree in its service. It must act upon an aggressive system, and take the people by storm. He should like to see a "Paul's Cross" erected in every one of the poorest districts in the metropolis, and many a Bishop in lawn sleeves preaching in the open air.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SHOW AT OXFORD.—In addition to the great agricultural meeting at Oxford, which commences on Monday, the 11th inst., arrangements have been made for a grand summer exhibition of plants, flowers, and fruits, by the Royal Horticultural Society, in conjunction with the Royal Oxford Horticultural Society, to commence on the 19th, and continue until the 22nd inst. Through the liberality of the directors of the Great Western, London and Northwestern, Midland and Great Northern, and South-Western Railway companies, all plants, &c., conveyed over their lines will be carried from the show (provided they remain the property of the person who transmitted them to the exhibition) free of charge. The great floral meeting, which is expected to be one of the most successful on record, will be held in the grounds of the Oxford Observatory; and, in addition to the ordinary prizes open to public competition, there are a large number of special prizes offered by the Royal Horticultural Society, the Oxfordshire Society, the Secretary for War, Lord Valentia, the Mayor of Oxford, Mr. James Hughes; Sir A. W. Peyton, Bart.; Mr. Charles Turner, of the Royal Nurseries; the Earl of Abingdon, the Bodleian Librarian, Baroness Wenman, the *Gardener's Chronicle*, the *Journal of Horticulture*, &c., amounting in the aggregate to a large sum. The works of the Royal Agricultural Society, which are situated about a mile out of Oxford, on the Woodstock road, are now near completion, and around the locality evidence exists of the gigantic nature of the society's operations, which are on a much more extensive scale than at the inauguration of the society at Oxford, on July 17, 1839, when the meeting was held under the presidency of John Charles Earl Spencer. For the convenience of the public a local committee has been organised by the Mayor of Oxford and others for the purpose of providing lodgings for the numerous company expected at Oxford, and we are informed their arrangements will enable visitors to obtain good accommodation at moderate prices. This result is due in a great measure to the system of registration adopted by the University Lodging-House Delegates, who have on their books upwards of 600 sets of respectable lodgings, most of which, with many others in the city, will be available for visitors at the forthcoming great Agricultural and Horticultural Shows. These remarks on accommodation are rendered necessary from the impression that prevails away from Oxford that lodgings are very dear at the latter place.



TRIUMPHAL ARCH NEAR THE SITE OF THE NEW SCHOOL AT REDLANDS.



TRIUMPHAL ARCH IN READING HIGH-STREET.

THE LATE FIRE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

A COLLECTION of papers respecting the destruction by fire of the British Embassy House at Constantinople has been printed and presented to Parliament. The collection consists almost wholly of despatches to and from the late Earl of Clarendon on the subject. Sir H. Elliott, writing from Therapia on June 7, takes occasion emphatically to contradict a statement in the *Levant Herald* that the fire-engines attached to the Embassy were not in working order when the fire broke out; and Captain Prowse, of the Cockatrice, having been requested to examine them, reports that they were all in perfect working order, and that there was a plentiful supply of water. The Rev. C. Gribble writes that the fire was like a prairie fire; and Sir H. Elliott, as a proof of the violence of the wind at the time, states that the awning of the Turkish flagship in the Golden Horn, distant a good half mile from the Embassy, was set on fire by the fragments that were carried over it, and that at St. Stefano, on the Sea of Marmora—a distance of eleven miles as the crow flies—pieces of sheets of music with his daughter's name on them were picked up.

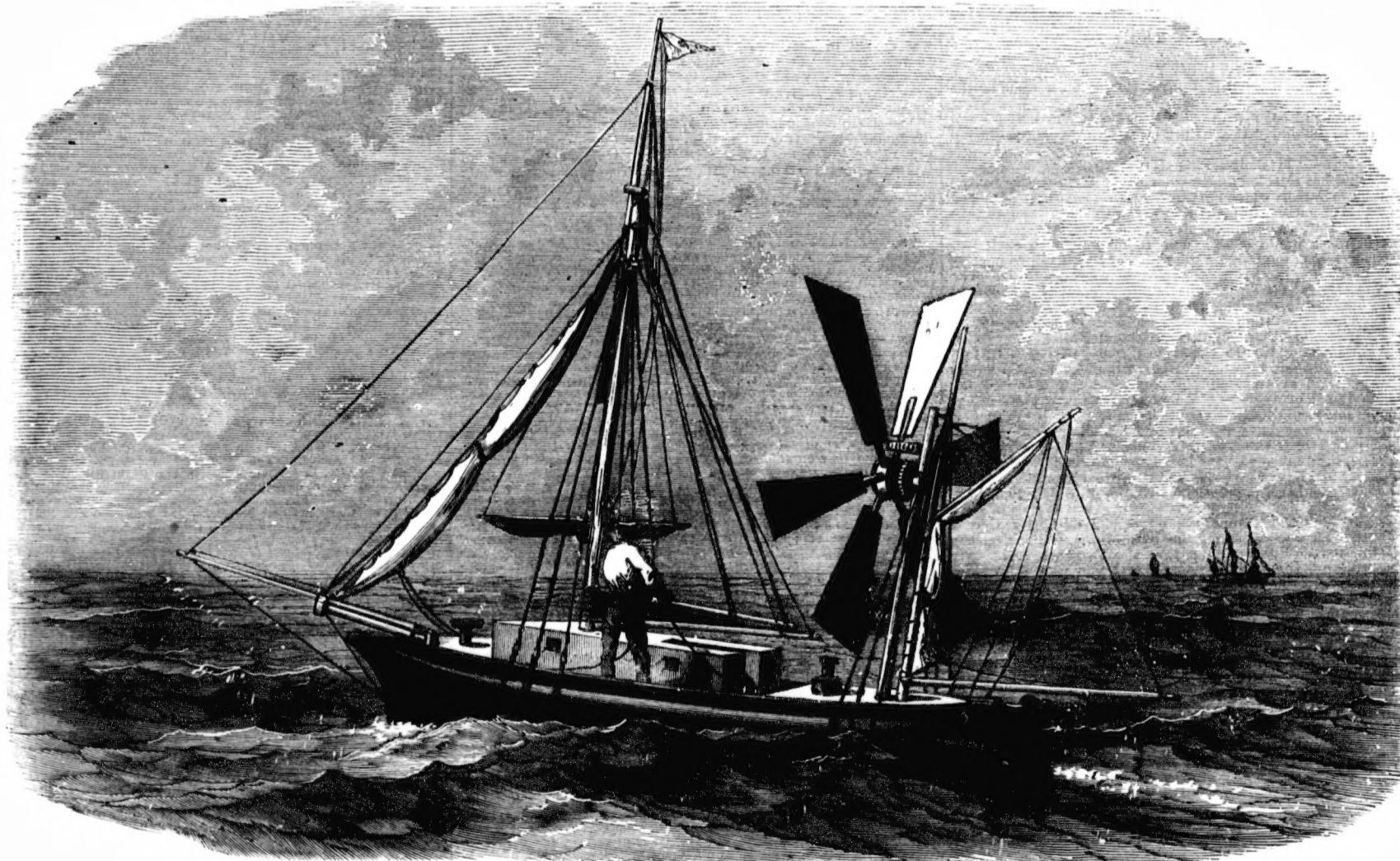
We have already published full details of this sad calamity, and need only add here that our Engraving this week represents a party of Turkish firemen carrying their small portable engines to the scene of conflagration—machines for fighting the flames amply

suggestive of why fires in Constantinople are generally so very destructive. Subscriptions for the victims of the fire continue to be received, Prince Charles of Roumania being one of the latest contributors.

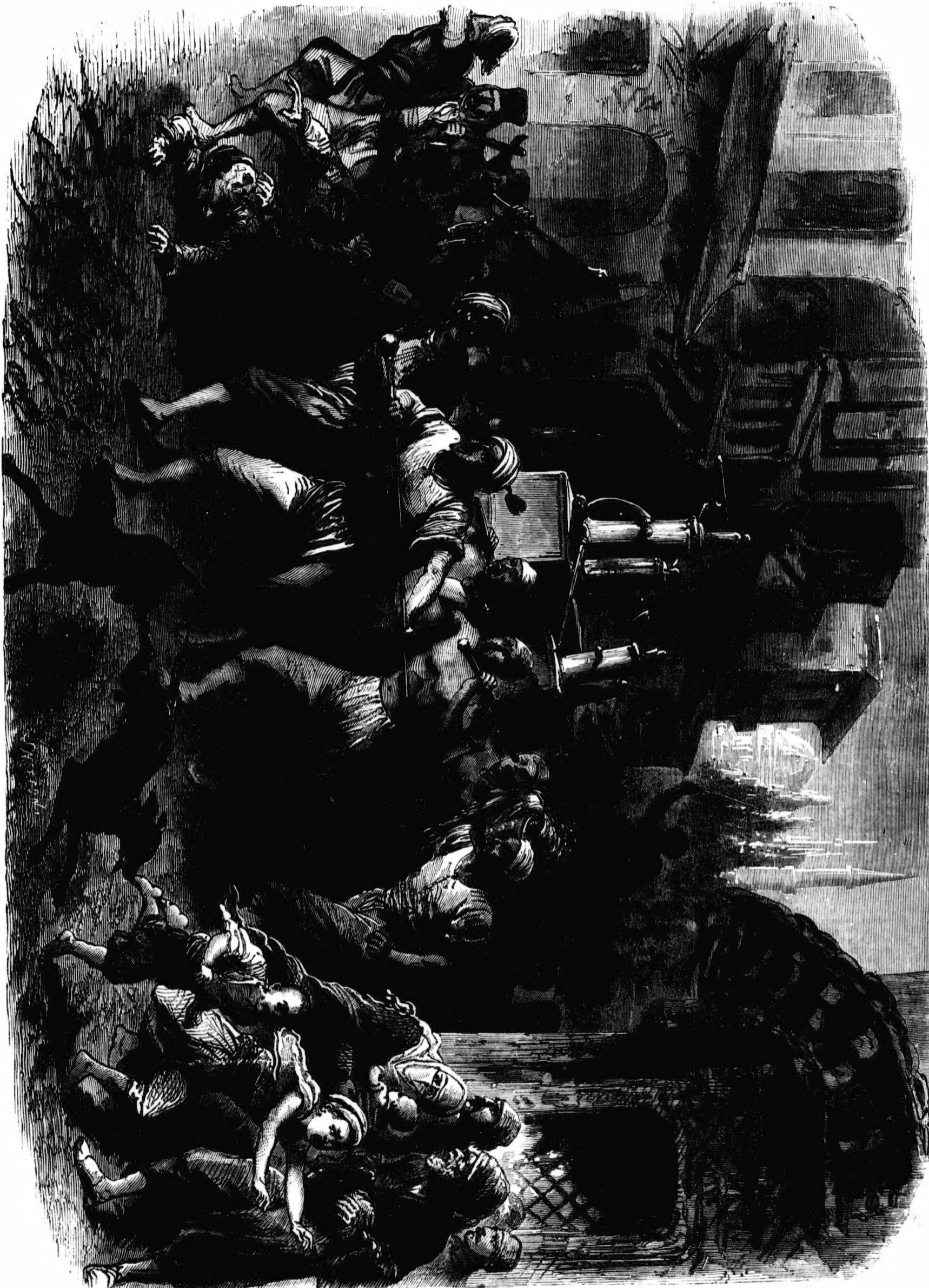
THE CITY OF RAGUSA ON HER WAY TO THE UNITED STATES.

WHILE Mr. Ashbury, who has constituted himself the champion of English fast-sailers (though there are many faster sailors than he in British waters), is engaged in an ocean yacht match, the performances of small vessels on a long passage are exciting very general attention. It might, perhaps, have been hoped that the desire to make great voyages in little boats would decline, and that the passage from America in a mere cockboat having been once effected, the possibility would thereafter have been acknowledged, without further practical demonstration. However, a new experiment is now being made; and it must be admitted that the build and rig of the little vessel represented in our Engraving, as well as its improved means of progression, make it probable that the adventurous commander, Captain Buckley, and his hardy crew of one man will reach their haven in safety. The City of Ragusa, which is now on her way to New York, is a decked boat of 1½ ton burden, 20 ft. long, and

with a 6 ft. breadth of beam. Strongly built and double-floored inside, she is substantial enough to stand a good deal of rough weather, while, being decked over, she has a kind of cockpit aft, and, consequently, space for a cabin 3 ft. wide and 4 ft. 6 in. high—mere berth for one man. This vessel was, in fact, a boat belonging to the Breeze, a ship which foundered in the Irish Channel, and at that terrible juncture she bore fourteen of the crew to the Isle of Man, so that she has a good reputation. The rigging is that of a yawl, with square sails for both masts; and when in full rig she will carry eight or nine sails, or about seventy yards of canvas. Besides this, however, she is fitted with a screw-propeller of two blades, which can be worked by hand, or, when the wind is favourable, by a windmill which is set up just before the mizenmast; while the propeller itself can be raised when it is not in use. Three months' provisions, and tanks containing one hundred gallons of fresh water, make the principal cargo of this sea-bird boat, the last intelligence of which was from Cape Clear, where she was sighted by a pilot-cutter, which reports "All going well." Captain Buckley, who is an Irishman, is a very experienced sailor, and has passed a life of adventure; his companion, Pietro di Costa, is an Austro-Italian, formerly master of an Austrian merchantman, which was lost on the Goodwin Sands, when his wife and two children were drowned.



THE MINIATURE OCEAN CRAFT CITY OF RAGUSA.



TURKISH FIREMEN CARRYING HAND-ENGINES TO THE SCENE OF THE LATE CONFLAGRATION IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 384.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE ROUTED.

In clause 14 of the Education Bill there is a sub-section enacting that no denominational catechism or formulary shall be taught in rate-aided schools. This sub-section has been introduced to get rid of that portentous religious difficulty which threatened destruction to Mr. Forster's bill. This is a great improvement to the bill, but it is not quite satisfactory to the gentlemen below the gangway, as we shall see. To many of the Conservatives this change is, of course, hateful. We say to many. Our readers would naturally suppose that it would be hateful to all; and so thought we when we first saw this amendment in the bill, and that the Conservatives would close their ranks when this clause came on for discussion and make a desperate attempt to get the amendment expunged. But very early we began to suspect that we were mistaken, and on Thursday, last week, our suspicions were confirmed. An attack was, however, made upon the amendment, as we knew there would be. It was led by Sir Stafford Northcote. The right hon. Baronet since Parliament was opened in February has been to Canada. He therefore has escaped the heavy work of the Session, and is as spry and fresh as a four-year-old just come up from grass. This was advantageous to him, as it seemed to us whilst listening to his speech; but there were counterbalancing disadvantages. Much was said and much done whilst Sir Stafford was away; and even on the Conservative side of the House a change had come over men's minds. But of all this Sir Stafford appeared to be quite ignorant. He used arguments which have been during the last few months over and over again confuted; he uttered fallacies which had been knocked on the head; he took up positions from which his friends had been forced to retire; he spoke as if he, like Rip Van Winkle, had been asleep for time, and had wakened up utterly ignorant of all that had happened since he began to slumber. Sir Stafford spoke in his usual style—that style we know so well. He was voluble of speech, confident in tone, and, seeing that he took a first-class degree in classics and a third-class in mathematics, and therefore must be a scholar and ought to be a good reasoner, astonishingly illogical. The right hon. Baronet, when he rose, may have hoped that he would succeed. He may have argued thus:—"My own party will support me, of course, to a man; and will not many of the Churchmen on the other side join us?" But if this were so, he must soon have been undeceived; for from the gentlemen opposite came no sign of approval. One and all in that compact phalanx listened with decorous attention, but in dead silence. But that was not all. From his own side there came no encouraging cheers. Now and then a few Conservative members cried "Hear, hear!" but these expressions of approbation were few and far between, and by no means emphatic. Nor was the right hon. Baronet zealously supported by speeches from his own side. Lord John Manners talked for twenty minutes or so, with characteristic febleness, to an inattentive House; and Mr. Beresford-Hope brought to Sir Stafford Northcote's aid a sentence or two of singularly inconsequential stuff; and Mr. Disraeli gave us one of the weakest speeches that he ever delivered. It seemed to us, as we listened to him, that the Conservative leader rose merely to give his countenance and sanction to Sir Stafford, and with no thought of seriously engaging in the conflict. When Disraeli sat down, nobody else got up. Mr. Gathorne Hardy was there in his usual place; and Sir John Pakington, Mr. Mowbray, Mr. Ward Hunt, and Colonel Wilson Patten—all these were colleagues of Sir Stafford in the late Government, but not a man of them rose to support him—and so the debate ended and the division was called, and this was the result: against Sir Stafford's amendment, 252; for, 95. There are, we reckon, about 278 Conservatives in the House; but to preserve to the Church her ancient privilege of teaching in our public schools her catechisms and formularies only ninety-five could be mustered. It is worth noting that four Conservatives voted with the Liberals—to wit, the Right Hon. Spencer Walpole and Mr. John Tollemache, Mr. Clare Sewell Read and Mr. Cawley—whilst at least a dozen Conservatives, when the division came, marched out of the House. Thus ended the first skirmish. Messieurs the Clergy, your catechisms, and formularies, and dogmas are surely getting out of favour. Thirty years ago a few taps upon the pulpit drum-ecclesiastic would have summoned every man of the Conservative party to the rescue; but now, out of 278, only ninety-five answer the call, and they, as we could not but observe, were not very hearty in the cause.

SIR JOHN PAKINGTON DESERTED BY HIS FRIENDS.

The second fight was begun by Sir John Pakington. A zeal for the Holy Scriptures inspired Sir John. He had voted for catechism and formularies, but in vain. "Let us then," said he, "at least enact that the Holy Scriptures shall form part of the daily reading and teaching in the school." Please to note, readers, that Mr. Forster's bill, as it stands, does not enact that the Bible shall not be read in the schools. That matter is to be left to the managers. This does not satisfy Sir John. He would have it enacted by statute that the Bible shall be read in all schools, whether Protestant or Catholic, Christian or Jewish. And now, will not the Conservatives rally round Sir John? At the war-cry of "The Bible! the Bible!" will they not muster? Why, only a few years ago such a cry, the spreading to the breeze such an oriflamme, would have set all England in a blaze. And in our simplicity we thought, when we first saw this notice upon the paper, that, when Sir John should bring on his motion, every Conservative would be in his place, and that there would be a desperate struggle, lasting all night, and evoking all the powers of oratory from both sides of the House. What was our astonishment, then, when we saw, whilst Sir John was speaking, that the Conservative benches were gapped with vacant spaces, and perceived that some of the more zealous of our Conservative members were conspicuous by their absence? Our surprise was increased when, as Sir John was pleading the cause of Biblical instruction, not a cheer came from the Conservative benches. But even this was not all. Not a single member rose to support Sir John. Nay, wonder of wonders! Mr. Gathorne Hardy—that stanchest of Conservatives, that most zealous of Protestants—actually spoke against the motion; and Newdegate, though present, was silent. This seemed to us little short of a miracle. This skirmish did not last long, not more than twenty minutes. Only three speeches were delivered after Sir John sat down, and these were very short. Then came the division; and we saw another strange sight—to wit, as soon as Mr. Dodson had put the question, over thirty Conservatives, and amongst them Mr. Gathorne Hardy and Lord John Manners, walked out. As they passed up the floor of the House the Liberals honoured them with a salute of cheers and laughter. Disraeli did not pass out of the front door, but he did not vote. He must have gone out through the door at the back of the Speaker's chair; or perhaps he went, as he sometimes does, into a private room there. The numbers in the division were—for Sir John's amendment, 81; against, 250. About a dozen Conservatives voted with the Liberals, and four Liberals voted with the Conservatives. Some readers may ask, What is the cause of all this? Have the Conservatives become less devoted to the Bible than they were? To which we answer emphatically, No. The simple fact is, that they have become more enlightened, liberal, and charitable. "It would be very unjust," said Lord Robert Montagu, "to oblige Roman Catholics to teach the Bible;" and so, in effect, spake Mr. Gathorne Hardy. But is not this something new and strange? Thus ended the second skirmish.

MR. JACOB BRIGHT'S AMENDMENT.

The next fight that we had that night was a much more important affair. The Committee had decreed that no denominational catechism should be taught in rate-aided schools. It had also decreed that the reading of the Bible shall not be forced upon said schools. But it had not, our readers will observe, decreed that the Bible shall not be read and taught; and no doubt in most of the schools the Bible will be read and taught. Will not, then, the

teachers be tempted in their zeal to use and direct the teaching of the Bible in favour of or against the distinctive tenets of religious denominations? Mr. Jacob Bright thinks that they will be so tempted; and, being desirous to exclude from schools the teaching of dogmatic theories, he placed a notice upon the paper that he should move to add to clause 14 words which, if adopted, would effectually shut dogmas out. And when the proper time came Mr. Jacob Bright rose to move his amendment. His speech was short, but it was long enough for his purpose. He merely wished to state his case, and this he did in his usual clear and forcible style. The Government, it was known, would not accept, but resolutely oppose, the amendment. Now, then, the fight began. The first man to rise when Mr. Bright had dropped into his seat was Sir Roundell Palmer. He is now what we call an independent member. He is not shackled by official bonds. He is free to support or oppose whatever comes before him, just as reason or conscience dictates—a sort of free-lance, sometimes vigorously charging the Government, and anon covering them with his ample shield and bravely defending them from their foes. On this occasion he defended the Government, but of him and his speech we will say no more here than that it was, to our minds, the weakest speech that we ever heard from Sir Roundell Palmer. It was, though, characteristic of the speaker. On these theological questions he is never strong, and the reason is clear. His mind, on these matters, is in a haze. His eyes are but partially opened; he sees trees as men walking. In the region of law his tread is firm and decided, and every legal knot that he meets with he can untie as easily as his garter. But when he enters the religious, or rather the theological, region, he stumbles and falters like a child half awake.

MR. WHITBREAD.

Mr. Whitbread, the member for Bedford, followed Sir Roundell Palmer. We have never formally introduced Mr. Whitbread to our readers; a word or two, then, about him now. The hon. member for Bedford is the grandson of the late Samuel Whitbread, the notable politician, by Lady Elizabeth Grey, the sister of the famous Earl Grey. Mr. Samuel Whitbread, the grandson, was first returned to Parliament in 1852. He must ever be conspicuous in the House, as he is the tallest man in it. Old Fuller says that "very tall men are often like very tall houses, whose upper stories are always badly furnished." Very likely; but that rule has exceptions, as we know. "Jacob Omnim" was taller by a couple of inches than Mr. Whitbread; but his top story was exceedingly well furnished. Mr. Whitbread, too, is an exception to the rule, for he is an accomplished gentleman, and his reputation for wisdom stands very high. Indeed, an opinion is afloat that some day he will be Speaker. We do not believe that there is any ground for this opinion other than the impression generally felt that he, above most men in the House, has conspicuously the qualifications for that high office. A few Sessions ago we were under the gallery when a storm arose in the House. What caused it we do not remember. As far as we recollect, there was some point of order in question. But, whatever the cause, the House had got into the most admired disorder, and no man could get a hearing. Suddenly, however, there came a lull. At first we thought that Mr. Speaker was upon his legs; but we soon discovered that it was Mr. Whitbread. "Who's that tall fellow?" asked a young Conservative within our hearing. "Who?" replied a grey-headed old Conservative; "why, it's Sam Whitbread, and we must hear him;" adding, "Hold your noise, will you; he will set us right. I'll bet anything he'll set us right. I always swear by Whitbread; there is not a more sensible fellow in the House." How the business ended we don't remember, nor does it matter. The anecdote is introduced because it proves that even amongst his political opponents Mr. Whitbread's reputation for knowledge and wisdom stands high. He is not a frequent speaker. A wise man is never a frequent speaker. "A still tongue makes a wise head," says the proverb, and this is true; but a still tongue often proves that the head is already wise. The member for Bedford can speak, however, and speak well—calmly, clearly, with ease and even dignity; and, though he aims not at oratory, with effect. On that Thursday night he spoke with striking effect, and in a somewhat different tone from that to which we have been accustomed. Mr. Whitbread's characteristic tone and manner are calm, quiet, sedate. On this occasion he was somewhat excited. During the many and prolonged discussions upon this bill he had not once spoken. But when he saw that this amendment was to be opposed by the Government he could no longer sit silent, and so he rose, not in his usual tranquil manner, but as one inspired. His opening sentence was like the blast of a trumpet, and straightway he charged his opponents like a Saladin of the olden time. Sir Roundell Palmer's fallacies were shattered at a blow; and so vigorously did he attack the Government for a threat which they had hinted if not expressed, that Gladstone turned round to his hon. friend, and in rather excited tones interpellated a denial. His speech was short; Mr. Whitbread never makes long speeches; but it was very effective, and was loudly cheered by the gentlemen below the gangway, as they are still called. We say as they are called, because the Radical party has broken bounds, like a swollen river, and overflowed on the gangway, to the region which used to be occupied entirely by the moderates.

SPLIT IN THE LIBERAL PARTY.

The supporters of Mr. Jacob Bright's amendment were highly elated whilst Mr. Whitbread was speaking. The hon. member for Bedford is a sound Liberal, but he never ranked with the Extreme Left. Moreover, he is highly connected, as the phrase is. He himself married the Earl of Chichester's daughter, and it would take more space than we can command to enumerate the titles which glitter in every direction on this family. It was a great catch, then, for the Radicals to get him on their side, and no doubt it was mortifying to the Government. But, if the Radicals were rejoiced when Mr. Whitbread spoke in favour of the amendment, they must have been even more so when the venerable Sir George Grey stood up and proclaimed that he "agreed in every word" that the hon. member for Bedford had uttered; and no doubt this defection must to the Government been very annoying. And now a few words about the division. There were for the amendment, 130; against, 251: majority for the Government, 121. To inexperienced eyes, this may appear to be quite satisfactory; but it was not. On the contrary, it was very unsatisfactory; for of the Liberal party Mr. Jacob Bright had a majority, as an analysis of the lists show. For Government there were 118 Liberals; against the Government, 130: majority, 12.

MONUMENT TO KING ROBERT THE BRUCE.—A committee, including on its list the names of the Earl of Mar, the Earl of Glasgow, and many other leading Scotch gentlemen, has been formed for the purpose of erecting a monument to King Robert the Bruce in Edinburgh, and some progress has been already made in collecting subscriptions. The preparation of the design for the monument was intrusted to the veteran artist George Cruikshank, who, though now in his seventy-eighth year, has been able to maintain that accuracy and delicacy of touch for which his productions have always been remarkable, and whose genius has inspired him with the idea of a most striking and characteristic statue of the King clothed in the hauberk of the period, over which he wears the Royal surcoat, his helmet being also surmounted by the Royal crown. The Bruce stands as if having just sheathed his victorious sword, on the hilt of which the fingers of his open hand are laid. He is attired cap-a-pie in chain armour, and on his heels are placed the small spike-spur worn in his day. The figure, 10 ft. in height, is intended to be cast in bronze, and will stand on an upright block of grey granite, 11 ft. high, which in its turn will rest upon another block, making the whole height 24 ft. On the pedestal under the name of the King is the word Bannockburn, beneath which are represented boughs of laurel and weeping willow intertwined, to typify the mourning which must accompany victory. Beneath are two hands—male and female—interclasped, surrounded by a wreath of the national floral emblems of England and Scotland. The model is at present at the studio of the veteran artist in the Hampstead road, and a full-sized model is to be set up in the forthcoming exhibition of 1871. A few days ago Mr. Cruikshank had the honour of submitting the model to the inspection of the Queen at Windsor Castle, and her Majesty graciously expressed her approval of the design.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 1.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Bill for the Repeal of the Ecclesiastical Titles Act passed through Committee; and there was a short conversation upon the subject of the appeals to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Several other bills were also advanced a stage before their Lordships rose.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The early sitting was almost entirely occupied with the consideration in Committee of the Education Bill. In clause 17, Mr. Dixon moved an amendment providing that the admission to the rate-founded schools should be entirely free. This proposal, which was opposed by the Government as well as by many hon. members on both sides of the House, gave rise to a good deal of debate; but, upon a division, it was rejected by a majority of 225—257 to 32. Viscount Sandon made an endeavour to procure for the managers of voluntary schools the same compulsory power of acquiring sites as the bill confers upon school boards, but his suggestion met with so little support that he did not divide the Committee in its favour. After these matters had been disposed of the progress of the bill was steady and satisfactory, and when the sitting was suspended the Committee had reached clause 27.

The House reassembled at nine o'clock only to be immediately counted out.

MONDAY, JULY 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House read the second time the Benefices Bill, having for its object the prohibition of the sale of next presentations; passed the Sequestration Bill, with some modifications, assented to by the Bishop of Winchester; and advanced several other measures a stage.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NOTICES OF MOTION AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

The list of notices given was, for the period of the session, a heavy one, and included matters of so much importance as the abolition of the office of the Lord Privy Seal, the Roehampton gate of Richmond Park, and the custody and restraint of habitual drunkards. There were no less than twenty-five questions upon the paper, but of the answers to only a few of these it will be necessary to take notice. The new survey of the Red Sea is to be commenced—if possible in combination with the French Government—as soon as the cool season sets in. The Census of 1871 will, as far as Ireland and Scotland are concerned, contain returns of the number of persons belonging to each religious denomination; but in England the opposition to a religious census is still so great as to prevent its being carried out with any hope of success. When the time comes for appropriating the seats which have been rendered vacant by the disfranchisement of certain boroughs, the claims of the metropolitan constituencies to increased representation shall, Mr. Gladstone undertakes, be fully considered; but the Prime Minister does not recognise any immediate necessity for action in this direction. The new Natural History Museum cannot be erected upon the Thames Embankment, as no site can be found for it without trenching upon land already reserved by Act of Parliament for the use of the public. The plans for providing new refreshment-rooms for the members of the two Houses of Parliament are still under the consideration of the Government; but Mr. Ayton has made up his mind that they shall be carried out by the officers of the Board of Works, who have prepared them, and not by a professional architect.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

These matters disposed of, the "massacre of the innocents" commenced. Mr. Gladstone, in fixing the next stage of the Parliamentary Elections Bill, and announcing that the Government still clung to the hope—"though not a very sanguine hope"—of passing that measure during the present session, informed the House that the following bills are to be withdrawn:—The Real Estates Bill, the Inclosure Amendment Bill, the Turnpike Roads Bill, the Feudal Tenures (Scotland) Bill, and the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Bill.

THE UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL.

When the University Tests Bill came under consideration, Mr. C. Bentinck made an attempt to secure to members of the Church of England all offices which are by the intention of the founders confined to them; but, being opposed by the Government, he did not press the clause of which he had given notice. The House having entertained Mr. Harcourt's proposal that a copy of every charter granted to a new college should be laid upon the table of the House for thirty days before it should come into operation, Sir Michael Beach—with a view especially to provide a safeguard against the introduction of denominational University education in Ireland—moved the addition of words which would extend the operation of the clause beyond the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to all parts of the United Kingdom. This motion led to an animated, though somewhat involved, conversation; but Mr. Gladstone undertook to bring in a separate bill to deal with this part of the subject; and, upon that assurance, both the amendment and the clause were eventually withdrawn. Lord E. Fitzmaurice's motion, to include within the operation of the bill the headship of a college or hall (accepted by the Government), was opposed by Mr. Hope and Mr. Mowbray; but, upon a division, it was carried by a majority, 119—205 to 86. Mr. A. Kinnaird, though in the House at the time the question was put, failed to pass into either lobby, and had to come to the table, acknowledge his omission, and declare that he voted with the "Ayes." A proposal by Mr. Ayton to extend the operation of the measure to colleges to be founded in the future as well as to those already in existence, led to another division; but, when the numbers were ascertained, it was rejected by a majority of 110—132 to 22.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

The first question which was raised in Committee upon the Education Bill concerned the method in which the school boards shall be elected. According to clause 27 they were, in the case of boroughs, to be chosen by the town councils; and this power of selection Sir C. Dilke proposed to transfer from those municipal bodies to the general body of ratepayers. This amendment, which was resisted by the Government, gave rise to a lengthy discussion, and produced a good deal of difference of opinion on both sides of the House. In the end it was rejected by a majority of only 5—150 to 145. By an amendment moved by Mr. Hibbert, and accepted by Mr. W. E. Forster, the power of election in country districts, was removed from select vestries (upon which it was in some instances conferred by the bill), and transferred in all cases to the ratepayers. On the motion of Mr. W. M. Torrens, provision was made that in the metropolis the school boards shall be elected by the parishioners; and at the instance of Lord F. Cavendish, the cumulative vote was introduced into the method of election. With these amendments the clause was passed; and, the following section having been agreed to, progress was reported.

TUESDAY, JULY 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The first question which was raised in Committee upon the Irish Land Bill before them again—upon report—and a good part of their time was spent in undoing what they had done in Committee on the measure. In the first place, Lord Bessborough moved to restore the £100 limit of value for holdings to which the payment of damages for eviction is to apply, in place of the £50 fixed by their Lordships; and, although this proposal was resisted by Lord Salisbury with more than vehemence, it was supported by the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Cairns, and, when a division was taken, was carried by a majority of 82—120 to 48. Then Lord Granville was allowed to restore, with certain limitations, the provisions of the original bill, which enabled the assignees of holdings to claim compensation for evictions, and established the presumption that improvements had been made by the tenant and not by the landlord, both of which had been struck out in Committee. Some other amendments were introduced, and the third reading of the bill was fixed for Friday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE UNIVERSITY TESTS BILL.

Nearly two hours of the early sitting were consumed by a debate upon the third reading of the University Tests Bill. In the absence of Mr. Newdegate, the rejection of the measure was moved by Mr. Green; and Mr. Harry, although not anxious for a division, felt himself bound to vote with the member for Bury St. Edmunds. Mr. Parker reminded honourable gentlemen opposite of the history of the various measures which had been brought in upon this subject, and of their gradual increase of stringency, and recommended them to accept this bill, lest in a future year they might be compelled to submit to one which they would consider much worse. This advice excited some disagreeable feeling on the opposite benches; and, while Mr. Foyer complained of the alterations which had been made in the bill upon the report, as a departure from the spirit of compromise in which alone a question of this nature could be satisfactorily settled, Sir M. Beach altogether protested against the tone of menace which he alleged had been adopted by the member for Perthshire. After an explanation upon this subject had been offered by Mr. Harcourt, and accepted by Mr. Mowbray, the discussion died out in the hands of Mr. Beresford and Mr. Newdegate. Upon a division, the third reading of the bill was carried by a majority of 134—247 to 113; and, when the question was put that it should pass, not a voice was raised in the negative.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

Once in Committee, the House applied itself in a thoroughly business spirit to the consideration of the Education Bill, and before the sitting was suspended fourteen clauses had been agreed to; the most important amendments which were introduced being provisions that the school boards shall be elected triennially, and that in the first instance the number of members for each district shall be fixed by the Educational Department. Towards the close of the afternoon, Sir M. Lopes moved an amendment upon clause 45, limiting the amount of rate to be raised to a penny in the pound,

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

and this proposal was under discussion when, according to the rules of the House, Mr. Dodson left the chair.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

When the House reassembled, at nine o'clock, Mr. LAMBERT, in a speech bristling with figures, called attention to Mr. Lowe's policy with regard to the reduction of the National Debt, as announced in his Budget speech, and sketched out a scheme according to which we might, by the imposition of an additional income tax of 9d. in the pound, discharge our liabilities in twenty-five years.

Mr. P. URQUHART expressed an unqualified preference for the reduction of customs and excise duty as contrasted with the payment of debt; or, as to put it, the reduction of a permanent annuity on unfavourable terms.

Mr. LOWE did not at all dispute the propriety of reducing the National Debt, but decidedly declined to commit himself to any approval of the plan proposed by the member for Bucks; and explained in detail the measure which had recently been adopted for the reduction of the national liabilities. For Mr. Lambert's assertion that "it is desirable that some decisive step should be taken to substantially and gradually reduce" the debt, he proposed to substitute a simple declaration that it was desirable substantially and gradually to reduce it.

This alteration was at once accepted by Mr. Lambert; and, after a short conversation, in the course of which Mr. Illingworth raised a laugh by suggesting that the land should take upon itself the payment of the debt, the amended resolution was agreed to without a division.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE GAME LAWS.

The early part of the sitting was occupied with the consideration of one portion of the large subject of the game laws. The question was raised by the proposal of Mr. A. Brown that the House should read a second time a measure for the repeal of the Poaching Prevention Act, which Sir B. Leighton induced Parliament to pass in the year 1862. The rejection of this bill was moved by Lord Galway, and seconded by Mr. Greene, who dwelt upon the necessity of shooting to the amusement of persons residing in the country during the winter, and protested that, if there were no game, they would find nothing to do. The utterance of the Government on the subject was of a rather uncertain character. Mr. Bruce admitted that, at the time the measure now sought to be repealed was passed, he disapproved of its provisions; but as, since it came into operation, he had received no complaint of its working, and as the whole subject of the game laws would have to be considered by the Government, he was unwilling at this moment to interfere with it. At the same time, he pretty clearly intimated that the Ministry would be altogether unable to deal with the question either in the present or the next Session of Parliament. Sir G. Grey also regarded the bill unfavourably, because it proposed to deal with part of a great question which could only be satisfactorily dealt with by the Government; and the right hon. Baronet recommended that not only this but all the other Game-Laws Bills which had been brought in by private members should be withdrawn, in order that at a future time the Ministry might propose complete and satisfactory legislation upon the subject. Mr. Brown was so dissatisfied with the tone of Mr. Bruce's speech that he felt compelled to take a division; but, when heads were counted, his bill was rejected by a majority of 78–140 to 62.

SUNDAY TRADING.

The Sunday Trading Bill, which had come down from the House of Lords, and the second reading of which was moved by Mr. Hughes, did not provoke any prolonged discussion. The rejection of the measure was proposed by Mr. P. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Rylands, the former gentleman condemning the bill because it went too far in the way of prohibition, and was reckless in the pettiness of its enactments and the cruelty of its punishments; while the latter appeared to object that it did not go far enough, because it did not include the closing of public-houses. The second reading was supported by Mr. Bruce, and, upon a division was carried by a majority of 45–109 to 64.

VACCINATION.

The Vaccination Act (1867) Amendment Bill was withdrawn by Mr. Candler, upon the understanding that a Select Committee shall be appointed to inquire into the subject next year; but the order for the second reading was not allowed to be discharged until Dr. Lyon Playfair had emphatically declared that there is no necessity for investigation, and that the opposition to vaccination is founded entirely upon ignorance and misconception; and Mr. Gilpin had asserted the conscientiousness of those who objected to this operation, and the impossibility of coercing them by penalties.

THURSDAY, JULY 7.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Sligo and Cashel Disfranchisement Bill was read the second time.

PRAYER-BOOK (LECTIONARY) BILL.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of this bill, and explained the alterations which were proposed to be made in the Prayer-Book.

After lengthened discussion, the bill was read the second time.

The Ecclesiastical Dilapidation (No. 2) Bill was read the third time and passed.

The Magistrates in Populous Places (Scotland) Bill, the Wages Attachment Bill, and the Protection of Investments Bill were severally passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE OFFICE OF THE LORD PRIVY SEAL.

In reply to Mr. J. White, Mr. GLADSTONE said that the recommendation to transfer the duties of the office of Privy Seal had been made in 1850; but since then the subject had been twice before the House of Commons—once in 1859, and again in 1860. Upon both these occasions the House decided by a majority against the abolition of the office.

THE FIRE AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr. LOWE, replying to a question, said that a sum of £750 had been sent out by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The Government hoped to do justice in all proper cases, and would consider the cases when the details were brought before them.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

The House went into Committee on this bill, when Sir Massey Lopes' amendment to clause 45 was resumed. It was proposed to omit the words "any deficiency shall be raised by the school board as provided by this Act," in order to insert a provision to the effect that if any further amount should be required, either for past or present liabilities, it should be provided by the rating authorities out of the local rates, provided that the amount required did not exceed one penny in the pound. Mr. Molyneux opposed the amendment, and expressed his disappointment at the withdrawal of the threepenny rate. After some remarks from Sir M. H. Beach and Mr. V. Harcourt, Mr. Forster repudiated the argument which he said had pervaded the whole of the discussion upon the question—namely, that the present bill proposed for the first time to fasten the expense of school charges upon the local taxpayer, the fact being that at the present moment more than one third of the expense of education was paid out of the Imperial Exchequer. After some observations from Colonel Barttelot, Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Scourfield, Mr. Walter, and Mr. Liddell, the Chancellor of the Exchequer defended the clause, arguing that, if the support of the schools were left entirely to local rates, the result would be starvation; and begged the House to consider the question, not as one of a little more or a little less of burden upon the ratepayers, but as a matter which involved the efficiency of the education it was proposed to give. Mr. Pell having briefly addressed the Committee, Mr. Dierwall expressed his inability to support the amendment, but at the same time hoped the Government would consent to postpone the clause with a view to the introduction of a modified proposition. Mr. Gladstone strongly opposed the amendment; and after some observation from Mr. Dixon, Sir Massey Lopes, and Sir H. Hoare, the Committee divided, with the following result:—For the amendment, 88; against, 273; majority, 185.

On clause 46 Mr. V. Harcourt moved an amendment, the object of which was to halve the school fund deficiency between the local rate and the Consolidated Fund. The amendment was negatived by 176 against 21. Sir C. Adderley proposed an addition authorising ratepayers to deduct their subscriptions to voluntary schools from their local rates for a school board. Mr. W. E. Forster objected, because he believed its effect would be to damage the working of the education system. This amendment was negatived without a division.

Clauses up to 53 were then agreed to.

On clause 54, providing for the publication of the accounts, Mr. Cross moved a proviso requiring an abstract of the school accounts to be published in the local newspapers. After some discussion, the amendment was negatived by 217 against 89. Mr. Forster then moved an amendment making the publication of the accounts permissive, which was agreed to. The clause as amended was then added to the bill.

The Chairman soon afterwards reported progress, and obtained leave to sit again.

DR. OCTAVIUS WINSLOW, who has been known as a popular Nonconformist preacher for more than a quarter of a century, at Leamington, Bath, and more recently at Brighton, has been ordained a deacon of the Church by the Bishop of Chichester.

THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH of the officers of Royal Engineers is to be considerably increased, in view mainly of the urgent prospective requirements of the Public Works Department of India. The precise mode of carrying out the augmentation must depend upon the recommendations of Captain Vivian's committee on the promotion in the scientific corps. In all probability the additions to the Royal Engineers will be made gradually, rank by rank, from the lowest commissioned grade upwards.

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SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has graciously accepted a copy of "Poems by the late William Leighton," recently published, by Messrs. Longmans, Green, and Co.

THE PRINCE OF WALES, who was accompanied by the Princess, on Tuesday laid the memorial-stone of St. Saviour's Church, for the deaf and dumb, in Oxford-street. The edifice will stand at the corner of that thoroughfare and Queen-street, and the site has been given by the Marquis of Westminster. His Royal Highness will open the Workmen's International Exhibition, on behalf of her Majesty, on Saturday, the 16th inst.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH arrived at the Mauritius on May 24, and was enthusiastically received. He left the island on June 3.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, recognising his blood relationship with M. Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte Patterson, lately deceased in the United States, went into mourning for a week.

THE MARRIAGE of the Earl of Derby with the Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury was solemnised, on Tuesday morning, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's.

THE FUNERAL of the LATE EARL OF CLARENCE took place at Watford Cemetery last Saturday, amid every mark of respect from the people who lined the route traversed by the cortege.

SIR W. M. JAMES, the new Lord Justice, was on Monday morning sworn in before the Lord Chancellor in his private room at the House of Lords, and took his seat for the first time in the Lord Justices Court on Tuesday.

ALDERMAN BULFIN has been chosen Lord Mayor of Dublin for the year 1871.

MR. SERJEANT KINGLAKE, the junior Liberal member for Rochester, is seriously indisposed.

A PROFESSORSHIP OF THE IRISH LANGUAGE has been founded at the Catholic University of Notre Dame, in St. Joseph county, Indiana, U.S.

AN EARTHQUAKE has devastated the Island of Santorin, in the Greek archipelago. The town is a mass of ruins, and several small islets have been submerged.

DR. ALEXANDER SIMPSON, of Glasgow, nephew of the late Sir James Y. Simpson, has been elected, by the curators of Edinburgh University, to the chair of Midwifery. He was chosen by a majority of four to three.

MR. STEPHEN BLAIRE, M.P. for Bolton from 1848 to 1852, died on Monday at Peel Hall, near Bolton, aged sixty-six years. At the time of his death he was Provincial Grand Master of Freemasons for East Lancashire. He was also a county magistrate.

THE LORD MAYOR has convened a meeting for Thursday next, the 14th inst., at the Mansion House, for the purpose of forwarding the efforts now being made to secure Wandsworth-common for public use and enjoyment.

THE REPORT OF MR. FREDERICK VIZETELLY'S DEATH, by drowning, at Margate, appears to be a heartless hoax, perpetrated by means of a telegram sent from Ramsgate, purporting to be from a Rev. G. Murray, to the *Pall Mall Gazette*. There was no one drowned at Margate on the day named in the telegram, and certainly not Mr. Frederick Vizetelly, whom we have since seen alive and well.

A FIRE BROKE OUT IN THE SHEFFIELD TIMBER-YARD, Cable-street, St. George's-in-the-East, on Monday night, about twelve o'clock, and at two on Tuesday morning was still burning, causing a great destruction of property. The origin of the fire is unknown.

THE BIRKENHEAD AND HOYLAK RAILWAY has been seized by the Sheriff's officers, acting under the instructions of Mr. Vyner, the owner of the land traversed by the railroad.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA has decided to admit women to all the advantages of its medical school, and two female students have already availed themselves of the privilege.

A CURIOUS ATMOSPHERIC EFFECT, of the nature of a mirage, was lately observed at Ostend. Above the masts of each vessel visible from the pier was seen another, inverted, with the tops of its masts resting, as it were, on those of the real ship.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, has just elected to a fellowship a devoted physical investigator, in the person of Mr. Bosanquet. This election is important, not only as a recognition of natural knowledge, but also of the principle of research as against that of mere education.

MR. BLANSHARD, County Court Judge of Newcastle, having resigned the Recordership of Doncaster, his brother-in-law, Mr. E. J. Meynell, of the Northern Circuit, has been appointed to the office by the Home Secretary.

THE LIVERPOOL EXCHANGE READING-ROOM, which for upwards of a century has been opened for a few hours on Sundays, is about to be closed, as the attendance is only equal to the number of officials on duty.

AN INTERESTING DOCUMENT has been published by the National Life-Boat Institution, containing a practical illustration, accompanied by working drawings of a life-boat station, as organised by the National Life-Boat Institution. So precise is the sheet that there would be no difficulty in any part of the world where experienced workmen are located to form a life-boat station by following its clear instruction.

JULY 1, the date at which the Orangemen begin their anniversary celebrations, passed off in Ireland without serious disturbance. Another satisfactory item of intelligence from the sister island is that the harvest will, in all probability, be a good one, and that no crop is likely to prove deficient.

DR. MENDEL, of Berlin, has been investigating the temperature of the cranial cavity. His experiments confirm those of Fick, who showed that the temperature of the interior of the skull is lower than the general temperature of the body.

RICHARD WEAVER, generally known as the converted collier and revivalist preacher, was ordered, at the Macclesfield Police Court, on Tuesday, to pay half a crown weekly, and £10 extra costs, towards supporting the illegitimate child of Sarah Leah, who had lived in his service as nurse. Weaver, on leaving the court, was loudly hissed.

A MAN NAMED ROBERT OWEN was charged, at Uxbridge, on Monday, with ill-treating and torturing a horse by driving it from Birmingham to Uxbridge in one day—the distance being more than hundred miles. He started from Birmingham at 4 a.m. on June 11, arriving in Uxbridge at 7.45 p.m. The horse subsequently died. The prisoner was remanded on bail—himself in £20, and two sureties of £10.

AT THE CARLISLE RACES, on Tuesday, during the contest for the Camberland Plate, a temporary stand erected on the course fell with a tremendous crash. There were 400 people on it at the time, several of whom were women. Two men had their legs broken, and about a dozen others received severe contusions. The materials of the stand were substantial, but the structure was improperly stayed.

A PRIZE OF £100 has been offered to the University of Oxford for the best essay in refutation of Materialism. It has attached to it a curious condition, which will somewhat perplex competitors. The arguments used are to be "independent of those of Hegel, and of what is called the spiritual philosophy which had its rise in Germany." The judges are to be Dean Mansel, Dr. Payne Smith, and the Savilian Professor of Astronomy.

THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE OF THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS have under consideration the improvement of Newington-green. There are many literary and historical associations connected with the place. The house in which the late Samuel Rogers, author of the "Pleasures of Memory," was born is still in existence there. It is in contemplation to erect by subscription a statue of De Foe, who was educated and afterwards resided at Newington-green.

THE PROVISION WHICH MR. CHARLES DICKENS MADE FOR HIS FAMILY consists of some £43,000 invested in public securities—half the value of the copyright of the great novelist's books, estimated at £20,000—his modest house at Gadshill, together with its contents—and the interest in *All the Year Round*, bequeathed to his eldest son. Mr. Dickens was at all times a munificent and free-handed man, and never made the attainment of wealth a first object.

A DEPUTATION, whose members pointed out some objectionable feature in Mr. Ayton's mode of dealing with the Serpentine, on Tuesday waited upon the right hon. gentleman, at the Office of Works. The First Commissioner, however, saw no reason to alter the course commenced by his predecessor. He thought it would be better to carry out the existing contract, and to postpone the question of reducing the depth of water.

LORD RUSSELL, in distributing the prizes to the children in the Warehouses and Clerks' Schools, last Saturday, expressed his satisfaction that the Bible is not to be excluded from the rate-supported schools for which the Government Education Bill provides. The noble Earl, who spoke at some length on the lessons of love to be learnt from a study of the sacred volume, had no doubt that the provision to which he had alluded would be adopted by the House of Lords.

A CRUEL HOAX was perpetrated at Halifax last Saturday. An excursion-train left that town for Lincoln at noon, and in the evening a telegram was received from Lincoln asking for a doctor, wine, and bandages to be sent immediately. It was, of course, supposed that an accident had occurred to the excursion-train, which took about one hundred persons from Halifax, and great excitement prevailed until the train returned in safety a few minutes after its appointed time. The railway authorities are trying to discover the author of the hoax.

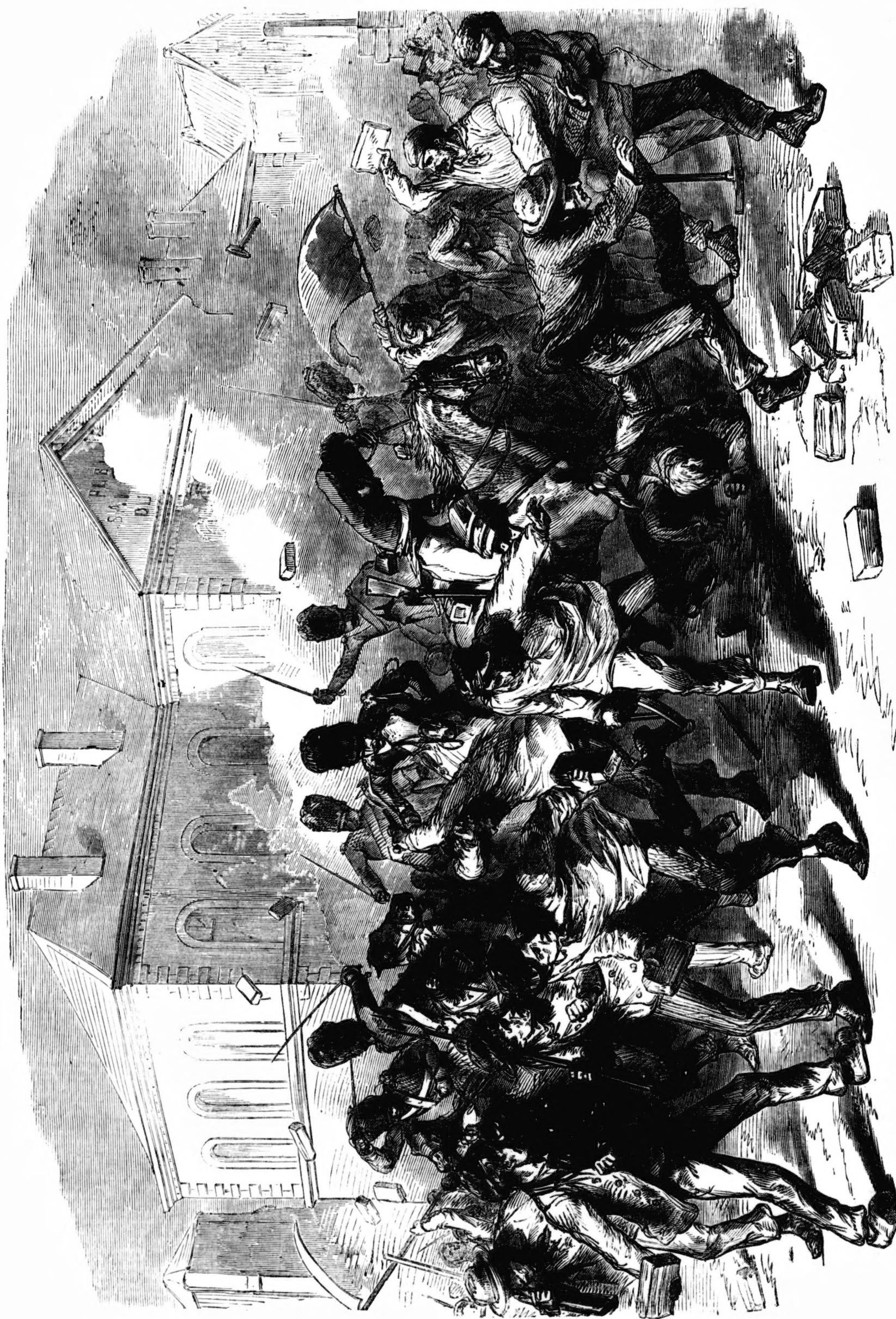
THE WHEEL OF A PLEASURE-VAN containing between thirty and forty persons who were returning from Hampton Court, on Monday night, came in contact with the kerb in Marybone-road, and the van was upset. Those on the top were thrown to the ground with great force, and a young man named Samuel Smith, the son of a newsagent in Gray's-inn-road, and Edward Haynes, of Mabeldon-place, Burton-crescent, were admitted to the Royal Free Hospital suffering from concussion of the brain and other injuries. Several other persons were taken to St. Mary's Hospital, but none of them were seriously hurt.



SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1870.

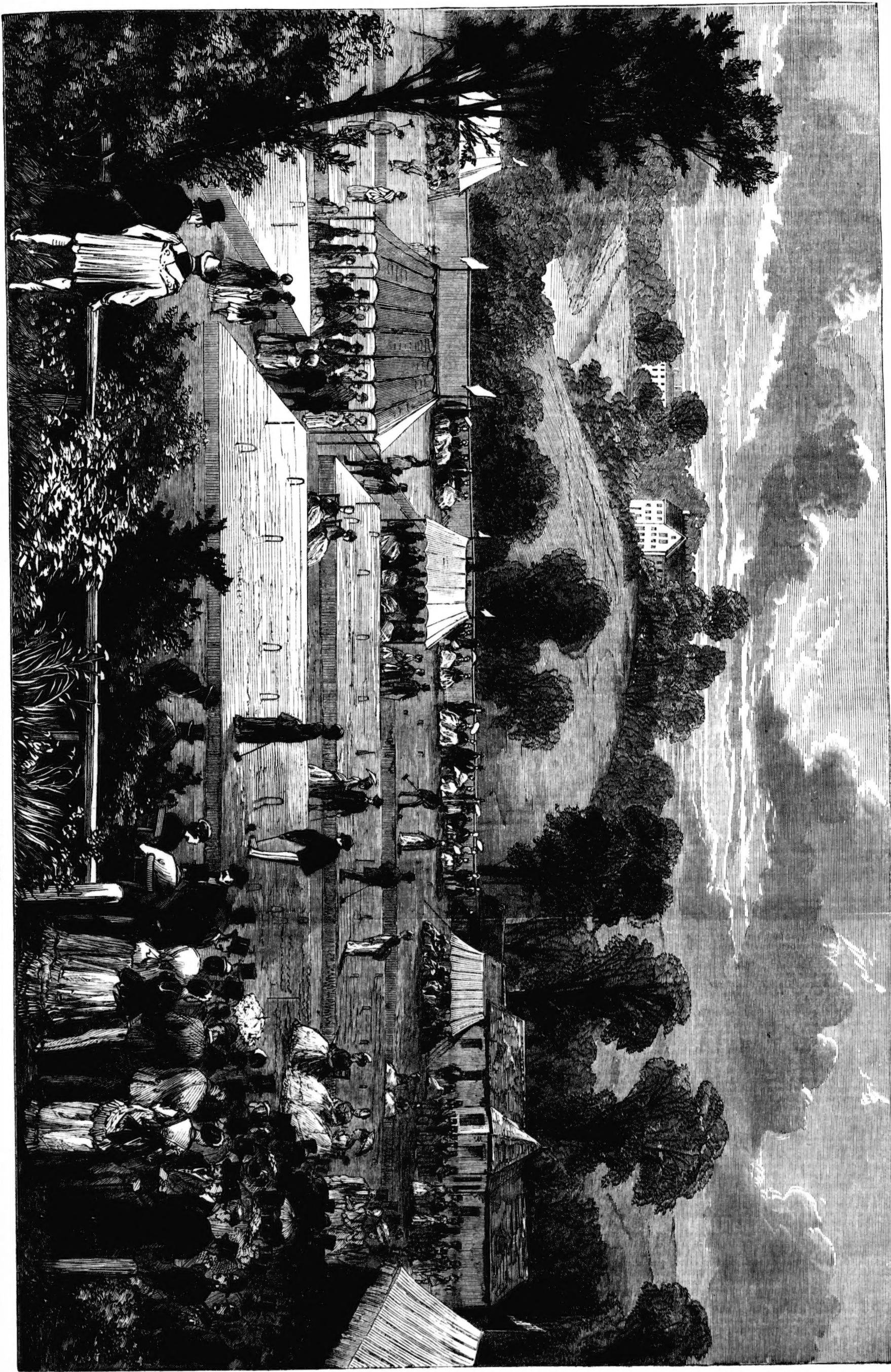
MR. TREVELYAN.

WHY is the name of Mr. Trevelyan a fit name to be placed at the head of an article in a public journal? Mr. Trevelyan has done a braver and truer thing, a thing more serviceable to the cause of political morality in England, than hundreds of the things for which men have received grants from the State and voluntary contributions and statues from the people. Some short time ago, in discussing the question of the Education Bill, we endeavoured to lay down the line between principle and expediency, and to define what we then termed the "Sphere of Compromise;" but the general sensibility in these matters has become so dulled of late—compromise, *unprincipled compromise*, is so much the law of the hour—that it was with a start of surprise that we heard of Mr. Trevelyan's resignation. Some of our contemporaries, indeed, were cynical enough to suggest that there must have been some reason behind the one assigned by that gentleman himself; which is just one sign more of the point of demoralisation at which we have arrived. But Mr. Trevelyan is as clear-headed as he is honest and determined, and, in a letter which has been made public, he very plainly and forcibly puts the case upon which he chose his line of action:—"I have resigned office," he says, "because I am unable to support the increase of the grant to denominational schools, which is a main condition and integral part of the Government policy." Mr. Trevelyan remarks that a member of the Government is, in all such cases, in a different position from a private member, and says, "Nothing but the belief that a vital principle is at stake would justify me in leaving a Government which has made good so many claims upon the respect of the country." He then proceeds, in the following terms, to protest against the endowment of creeds:—"It is not every day that the people in general get firm hold of a broad, simple, and true idea as an article of political faith—and to inspire such an idea is the only method of extending political education through the mass of the community. Nothing has tended so much to elevate and ennoble public opinion as the conviction of multitudes of electors that, in voting for religious equality in Ireland, they were establishing a rule of policy which would influence the decision of all religious and educational questions throughout the entire kingdom. On the other hand, I do not know anything which will more profoundly demoralise public opinion than the discovery that a principle in which men have learned to believe, and for which they have made great sacrifices, is supposed to have only a partial application; and that, after dealing a deathblow to the endowment of denominations in Ireland, we are to spend additional hundreds of thousands a year



ANTI-MILITIA RIOTS AT VERVIERS, BELGIUM: THE POLICE AND GENDARMES DISPERSING THE MOB.

GRAND CROQUET TOURNAMENT ON THE NEW GROUND AT WIMBLEDON.



RIOTS AT VERVIER.

RIOTOUS proceedings, the origin of which it is not easy to distinguish, since they are allied both to political insurrection and to trade disturbances, have again made their appearance at Verviers, where the population is about 35,000; and the association called the "International" is ordered by about 500 members, who are its ringleaders. The last occasion of the outbreak, represented in our Engraving, was the calling out the militia of the corps of 1863, that they might go into camp exercise for several weeks. This was at once regarded as a motive for resistance, and the leaders of the movement formed a cortège and paraded the streets, singing the "Marseillaise" and preceded by a red flag bearing the inscription, "Victimes de l'impôt du sang." Of course, the words were to some extent absurd, because the militia are not exposed to any other danger than that of drill and military evolutions; but any kind of cry is sufficient for people ready for an outbreak, and any pretext is good enough for their purpose, especially where, as at Verviers, there is no garrison, and only a small force of police and firemen, and a brigade of gendarmes. However, while the police met the crowd and demanded the surrender of the flag, a message had been dispatched to Liège for reinforcements, and by about six o'clock 300 infantry and sixty lancers entered the town, with drums beating, while at the same time brigades of gendarmerie from Aulne and Herve had arrived; while Liège itself was reinforced by detachments from Brussels. The rioters, who had formed into a mass and carried two more flags, halted before the Hôtel de Ville, still singing the Marseillaise, and shouting "Vive la ligne!" A conflict was inevitable. After three summonses, preceded by a roll of the drums, the gendarmerie and the police began to attempt to clear the square. A regular fight commenced. Several arrests were made, and some on both sides were badly hurt with kicks, or by being dragged along the pavement. A night patrol, who had been assailed by some of the rioters armed with bricks slung in their handkerchiefs, killed one of the aggressors, and others were wounded. In the end, the law had the best of it, and the rioters, having been for the most part dispersed, a regular patrol was established in all the streets of the city, so that by the following day order was re-established, until another outbreak is organised, to end in more bloodshed and the same useless results which the million members of the International have not yet learnt will check the progress of industry for years to come.

THE ALL-ENGLAND CROQUET MATCH.

A GRAND croquet tournament was held, last week, on the new ground recently opened near Wimbledon. For several days all the playing spaces were occupied by competitors for the prizes to be distributed. The attendance of spectators was not so numerous as it might have been, though a very considerable number of persons were present, and the ground owed its animated aspect not so much to the devotees of the game clustering around favourite players, and following with breathless interest the use of the mallet and the journey of the ball, as to the gaily-dressed ladies and attendant cavaliers (young clergymen predominating) who sat under the tents, wandered to the end of the walks, or sipped iced drinks in the refreshment-room. So far the sight was pretty one, especially when added to it there were to be seen the graceful attitudes and abandon with which the game is so calculated to encourage on the part of lady players. The gentlemen who engaged in the "draw" for the champion prize were Mr. J. D. Heath and Mr. Nicol, Mr. G. Clowes and Mr. Maddock, Mr. Henty and Mr. Law, Mr. Jones and Mr. Peel, Mr. Muntz and Mr. Clowes, Mr. Whitmore and Mr. Riky, Mr. Pearson and Mr. Elsmie, Mr. D. J. Heath and Mr. Lillie, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Maycock, Mr. Haines and Mr. Hickson, Mr. Hall and Mr. Joad, Mr. Lane and Major Baker. The contest was open to all comers, and an entrance fee of a guinea was required. The prize is a handsome silver goblet, worth 50 guineas, to be held by the winner in the last round. The holder of the cup is to play the winner of the all-comers' contest next season, on conditions to be laid down by the All-England Croquet Club committee. Failing this, he resigns the cup. After holding his own through three consecutive seasons, the winner is bona fide possessor of the trophy.

The new croquet-ground abuts on pathway which skirts the railway, and is only a few minutes' walk from the Wimbledon platform. The road is straight and the way easy; but the aroma, the concealed garbage, the hidden filth! We hear of fever dens in the heart of London, and of the risks to which town missionaries and the charitable visitors of the very poor are exposed; but sporting people might safely back the stench arising from the ditch or open sewer behind the hedge by which visitors to the croquet-ground walk against the most fetid odours of a London court. Once in the croquet-ground, to which it should be stated there is another and but slightly more circuitous approach, and the visitor is safe. The festering ditch assails his nose no more, and he is able to devote his faculties to the scene around. The inclosed place has clearly been in preparation for months. It is of immense size. There are grassy banks, sloping mounds, broad flats of soft and velvety turf; walks so arranged as not to interfere with the play, while enabling those traversing them to note every point in the game. Spotless white tents, small and cosy, dot the spacious place all round, and here sit the pundits, the wise men, the oracles of croquet, criticising the strokes with the acumen and watchfulness of umpires at a champion billiard-match. The matches of last week were inaugural merely, and we may expect to see the croquet culture of the last few years bearing practical fruit at its head-quarters.

Let us glance round and note the difference in the surroundings of public and private play. The amiable fussiness of host and hostess are wanting. There is no difficulty about making up sets, no question as to the fitness of this or that player to be handicapped against rival or friend. Every man knows his reputed value and what he is playing for, and neither coyness nor assumption would be in place. Again, at most private croquet parties there are a number of people to whom the game is of minor interest, and who treat it simply as a short cut to flirtation, to pleasant wanderings in shady paths, to strawberries and cream. At Wimbledon the interest, real or assumed, was centred on the game, and the bystanders were as terribly in earnest as the players. There was a freemasonry, too, which made outsiders feel they had much to learn; and notes were compared as to this man's prowess and that set's score which showed a complete familiarity with the doctrine of chances. As a matter of course, the clergymen present spoke with authority. Croquet has long been a favourite clerical pastime, and that country curate must have abnormal and unpleasing peculiarities who is not included in the croquet parties of his neighbourhood. So the black coats were plentiful at Wimbledon. Who does not know of execution done at croquet, when the players are pretty, and the get-up, the clocked stockings, the costume dresses, the pretty boots, are all in unison? Yonder is a fair group, whose play and by-play are worth the journey to see. Such skill, such grace, such complete mastery over the long and heavy weapons they wield—for the All-England Croquet Club favours mallets of great size, and, besides having the revision of the rules of the game in hand, has already devised some important alterations. "Tight croquet," or the stroke in which the player's foot was placed on his or her opponent's ball, is disconcerted by the club, so that one of the prettiest attitudes in the whole game is lost. As the day wears on you are more and more impressed by the calm imperturbability, the exceeding business-like self-absorption of the devotees. The conversation concentrates itself still further, "rovers" are as often spoken of as in the romances written for boys, "the stick" becomes an important as in the countries in which it is a symbol of government, while the size of balls and the varieties in hoops occupy much time. There seems no limit of age in the followers of croquet. Stout middle-aged gentlemen took as deep an interest in all

going on as the slim young fellows who were winning their spurs; and the sanguine insisted that the time is not far distant when the All-England Croquet Club ground will attract just such assemblages as flock to Lord's on the day of the Oxford and Cambridge cricket match, or to the best of the fashionable archery meetings. When this happens the animation will be supplied, which was the chief want last week. One wanted to hear more careless laughter and idle chat, more evidences of enjoyment of the externals of the scene, more holiday play, more badinage, more fun. This is a purely outside view; but it really seemed as if the interest had not been sufficiently diffused for the place, and as if the great body of croquet players were but scantly represented. For true lovers of the game there are probably no finer pleasure grounds in the world; for, apart from the convenience of its situation and its nearness to the railway station, the natural advantages of the new head-quarters of the club are considerable. Behind them is a gentle acclivity, which the all-encroaching bricks and mortar have not yet covered. The far-famed Wimbledon school, red and imposing, looks down upon it, while villas of the larger kind, with croquet-grounds of their own, speak of a local constituency which is almost numerous enough to support this central playing-place. The Surrey hills and the Grand Stand at Epsom are hidden, by reason of the low-lying character of the ground; but far away to the right is the avenue known as Queen Elizabeth's, at Cheam, and a fine expanse of well-wooded, fertile country. Combe wood and the plantations sacred to H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge's pheasants; the well-known signs of Roman occupation called Caesar's Camp, the butts, and the breezy common, are just beyond that rising ground; while branching in every direction from the right are retired lanes and sleepy highways, running by farmhouses and through villages which are as primitive and unaltered as if they were hundreds of miles away. With the one exception of the fetid ditch, which is the croquet-ground's misfortune and Wimbledon's disgrace, nothing could be happier than the surroundings. The weather, too, was favourable; and, though puggarees and sunshades were worn and tents were provided, the pleasant air and fleeting clouds made the air so fresh that no one suffered from the heat.

THE LOUNGER.

A RUMOUR floated about the clubs, a day or two ago, that the Lordship of the Admiralty, vacated by Mr. G. O. Trevelyan, would not be filled up. But it is to be filled up, and the Earl of Camperdown is to have the place. Fifteen years ago, his Lordship's father, when he was Lord Duncan, and represented Forfarshire in the House of Commons, held the same office. The present Earl is twenty-six years old, and can have had but little training for the work which he will be called upon to do. But then, you know, for these offices it is presumed that men do not want training. This seems strange; but it is so. A candidate for an ordinary clerkship in the Civil Service must first be severely examined; then, if he gets a place, he has a salary of £80 or £100 a year, and, of course, is set to perform very simple duties; and, by the time he will have to perform duties similar to those of a Lord of the Admiralty, he will have had a training of many years and gained large and varied experience. But, as I have said, your Lord of the Admiralty goes to his work without previous training; nor have his qualifications been tested by examination. This is a very odd and anomalous practice, and one would think it must be mischievous. No merchant, manufacturer, or banker, would dream of pitchforking an utterly untrained man into his counting-house to perform there the highest class of duties. By-the-way, one wonders who it was that passed the papers of that discharged clerk who got out of the Admiralty the handsome sum of £2000. Was he an ordinary clerk or a "Lord"?

Mr. Gladstone did an unprecedented and bold thing when he made the Vice-President of the Council a Cabinet Minister. But Mr. Forster is so popular that nobody will censure or even criticise this step. If Mr. Disraeli had made Lord Robert Montagu a Cabinet Minister, I think that Liberal leaders would not have let the appointment pass without notice; but then there is this to be said—Mr. Forster is in every way qualified to be a Cabinet Minister. I rather fancy that when Mr. Forster shall have got his bill passed into law and the law into operation some change will be made in the department which manages our national education. I should not be surprised if we were to have a Minister of Education along with a Secretary of State. If so, of course Mr. Forster will be the man; and here let me tell your readers that, though Mr. Forster is in name only Vice-President, he is in practice at the head of the Committee of Privy Council. The truth is this, Lord De Grey and Ripon is king, and Mr. Forster is viceroy over him. By-the-way, we have now two manufacturers in the Cabinet—Mr. Bright and Mr. Forster. When Lord Halifax first entered the Cabinet he little thought that he would one day sit in Council with two cotton-spinners. The proud old Whigs used to sneer at Peel as a cotton-spinner's son, but now we have two actual cotton-spinners or manufacturers, I know not which, in the Cabinet.

There seems now to be no reason why Parliament should not rise about the middle of August. My Lords, on Tuesday night, made our prospects much brighter than they seemed on Monday. There will be no collision between the two Houses; everything will be amicably settled. Lord Salisbury, it is said, never thought of being obstinate. I am told that, when he gave way on Tuesday, he said, laughingly, "I asked so much that I might retain a little." The Education Bill will, I think, be in the Upper House next week; and, this out of the way, the House will go to work at the Estimates. There are about 160 votes to be passed. This is a large number; but the morning sittings will be devoted to them, and by the end of the first week in August they will be all cleared off.

A morning contemporary of yours, Mr. Editor, contained, on Wednesday, the following letter:

I was rather surprised to find that there was a rumour that there would be no whitebait dinner this year by the Ministers now in office, for what reason I, as well as most of the electors of the borough of Greenwich, would like to know. Surely we have not offended Mr. Gladstone by returning him to Parliament free of expense at a time when he was defeated at South Lancashire. Yet since his election, although he has been several times requested to pay us a visit, he has always refused. I think, if he is offended with us, he will find, unless he alters, we shall be offended with him at the next election.

There may be reasons, besides the unpopularity of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Ayrton, for not visiting Greenwich to dine on whitebait this year; but it is rather unpleasant—though it surprises no one—to read this letter. The *Spectator*, stanchly Gladstonian as it is, once condemned Mr. Gladstone's coldness to little Greenwich. Some of the most cultivated and intelligent people in England dwell within the limits of that borough (Mr. J. S. Mill is one of them), and surely the relation is, all things considered, an honourable one on both sides. If I were Mr. Gladstone, I am quite sure I should cherish it, and seek always to be returned for it.

A grand morning concert and dramatic interlude is to be given on Monday next, July 11, at Stafford House, on behalf of the Gentlewomen's Self-Help Institution, 20, Bessborough-gardens. The entertainment is under very distinguished auspices, among the patronesses being H.R.H. Princess Mary of Teck; the Duchesses of Sutherland, Wellington, and Argyll; the Marchionesses of Westminster, Donegall, and Townshend; the Countess of Galloway; the Dowager Countesses of Buchan, Dunmore, and Westmoreland; Lady Grey, Baroness Meyer de Rothschild, Lady Anne Sherston, &c. The list of performers includes several of the most eminent artists of the day, vocal, instrumental, and dramatic. The most attractive feature of the whole entertainment, however, is the excellence of the institution in behalf of which it is given—an institution that affords decayed gentlewomen opportunities of helping themselves by the returns obtained for their work, and thus raises them at once above the degrading sense of dependence and that worst of all conditions—gentle pauperism. I wish both the institution (which, I am glad to learn, is flourishing under the

care of the indefatigable honorary secretary, Mrs. Una Howard) and the concert every success.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Cornhill* is a good number, but the articles and stories are a little too long. The narrative matter very greatly preponderates. "Fulham Lawn" is new and very pretty. The "Cynic" has an essay upon "Oratory," which might be better, though it is not bad. He denies, and justly, the cogency of some of the reasons usually alleged for the fact that we don't find sermons in general interesting:—

We do not go to a great speaker to be persuaded, but to be infected. The whole theory of eloquence depends upon a law of nature which has been illustrated by innumerable anecdotes. Such, for example, is the old story of the man who persuaded a crowd that a certain stone lion wagged his tail by the simple expedient of asserting it in public with an air of conviction. There is no proposition, however ludicrous, for which you cannot obtain proselytes, if you will only persuade people, not that it is capable of demonstration, but that you personally believe in it.

All this is very true; but what strikes one in addition is this:—There is, as the "Cynic" says, an immense quantity of religious opinion as to which there is so much doubt, even in the pulpit, that the preachers cannot—to use his word—"infect" us; but this opinion is concerned with mixed matters of fact and principle. But outside of all this there is a precisely infinite territory of moral and religious first principle upon which any man of capacity may find firm standing-ground, and, if he has worth his salt as a preacher, "infect" us to our hearts' content. Why is it that this territory is so little frequented by preachers in general, and, we may add, by religious writers? One reason is that their peculiar training has closed the eyes of the majority of them to its existence—they cannot conceive of it as real, apart from those mixed matters of fact and principle; and the other reason is that those who do see it are positively jealous of its being recognised as existing.

Macmillan, of course, continues Mr. Trollope's new story, "Sir Harry Hotspur of Humblethwaite"; but it contains besides a number of interesting papers. Foremost among these ranks Mr. Thomas Hughes's account of the "Cornell University," which is truly delightful. It is nice to find Mr. Hughes so sober, so gentle, and so practical. Mr. Nolan's brilliant little essay, "Lord Macaulay's Schoolboy" is defective in one respect only—the passages referred to should have been given in full. Mr. Freeman discusses Mr. Coate's book upon the alleged permanence of Roman Civilisation in England. It is a very curious subject indeed; and though Mr. Coate has obviously erred, both in his method and in his conclusions, he has started a hare that Mr. Freeman has not thoroughly run down yet. The short paper, "In Memoriam" Charles Dickens, is, I presume, by Mr. Arthur Helps. Some of it is really acute.

It would be scarcely going too far to call the *Poetical Magazine* a dead swindle. Notice the two grammatical blunders in the short extract I now make (almost every editorial sentence is faulty in some way); and, above all, observe the cool suggestion about the fifty copies:—

AGNES HENRY.—"The scale of charges" refer to advertisements. When a contributor's poems appear, they usually take fifty copies of the magazine.

Here we find that the singular noun "scale" requires a verb in the plural, and that "a contributor" is "they." But fifty copies at sixteen (which is the price) would, according to Cocker, come to £2 10s. Rather a high figure for having your rhymes inserted, especially under such a condition as this:—

W. T. W.—In reading through a poem, we always make alterations where improvement is obviously necessary.

I presume that explains the "Hella's" for "Hellas," which I find in one place, and the scores of queer things which deform the pages. Fancy the authority who writes those answers to correspondents making judicious "alterations" in a poor wretch's MS.! This is almost too good to be omitted:—

ON MY OWN VERSE.
My numbers they warble
Like music that's rolled
In crystalline maze
O'er pebbles of gold.—D. T. C.

So is this:—

ODE TO SOPHIA
(From the Shetland Islands).
Sophia dear, although discursive,
I wander o'er these distant isles,
My heart of present things subversive,
Still lingers basking in thy smiles.

And this, too, begs hard for admission:—

THE OBJECTION.
Question:
Say, sister, why this great objection
To a man of nature's moulding,
Why hold him in as 'twere subjection,
Instead of to your heart enfold him?
Gifted both in form and feature,
And a valiant son of Mars!
Sister, you're a silly creature;
'Twere me I'd bless my lucky stars.

Answer:

Had his talents been employed
In any cause but that he's chosen,
All with him could I've enjoyed,
Tho' sweets and bitters had been woven.
His name may be enrolled by fame,
In many a field of so-called glory,
But then to kill, and wound and maim,
'Tis cruel, horrible, and gory.—C. D.

But I find in the present number some lines headed "Impossible" which rather puzzle me. I have so vivid a feeling of having seen something very like them long ago that I suspect the author of having partly copied, and spoiled in the process, a real poem by another person. Here are a few lines:—

IMPOSSIBLE.
I keep a secret. All my being has grown,
A close shut fane to hold an idol hidden,
A guest has entered into me unbidden,
And will not leave me till my lamp burns down.

* * * * *
But she's the errand, and she must not bide
For this low murmur of love about her feet.
So when the half-averted brown eyes look
At this poor song I writ for her to day,
She will not see herself; she will but say,
"Who is this woman?" as she shuts the book.

If, however, I am wrong, and D. T. C. did, off his own bat, score these lines in question, my earnest counsel to him is this—cut the mufus who pay £2 10s. to see their trash in the *Poetical Magazine*; and some day you will write poetry that it will be worth *our* while to pay you for. But the more I look at them the more reasons do I see for thinking them plagiarised and mauled, not original, rhymes. They remind me of some lines of Walter Savage Landor's, which are more full of feeling than his poetry usually is:—

Proud word you never spoke, but you will speak
Four, not exempt from pride, some future day;
Resting on one soft hand a warm white cheek,
Over my open volume you will say,
"This man loved me;" then rise and trip away.

I quote this from very remote memory, and I feel sure not accurately, but still not very misrepresentingly.

Once a Week announces a new serial novel by Mr. Hain Friswell, author of "The Gentle Life," under the title of "One of Two; or, a Left-Handed Bride." The novel will be illustrated by Mr. R. W. Macbeth.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

If I had not been distinctly told that Mr. Reece's "beautiful spectacular romance," founded on Baron de la Motte Fouque's legend of "Undine," was accepted at the OLYMPIC before Mr. W. S. Gilbert wrote "The Princess," I should decidedly have said that Mr. Reece was anxious to follow in Mr. Gilbert's footsteps. And, after all, why not? Mr. Gilbert has steadfastly set his face against the rampant vulgarity which has degraded burlesque into idiotic horseplay, and hitherto he has kept his ground with uncommon cleverness. To be a convert to Mr. Gilbert's way of thinking is hardly a disgrace. At any rate, whether Mr. Reece imitated Mr. Gilbert, or Mr. Gilbert was inspired by Mr. Reece—whether Undine made friends with the Princess, or the Princess was evolved out of the moral consciousness of Undine—nothing I am very glad, and that is the undoubted fact of Mr. Reece having abandoned for ever the breakdown, cellar-drap, nigger-cum-music-hall, cheeky, and impudent kind of entertainment for a purer and more refined study. "Undine" is certainly the best thing Mr. Reece has done. The libretto is well worth reading. Though I have not seen the book, I can tell pretty well that the scansion is good and the rhymes innocent; and I know that passages over and over again occur which linger pleasantly on the ear. I am sorry, of course, that Mr. Reece should at any time mar the harmony of his work. Such a delicate fancy as a lover being "noosed in the fringes of his lady's eye" but ill accords with several mild puns and stale allusions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the income-tax payable in advance. Mr. Reece, in trying a daring experiment, ought to know better than this. When I hear of a "spectacular romance" I naturally expect a little spectacle. "Undine" is, of course, suggestive of the most charming scenes imaginable—water, grottos, caves, nymphs, goblins, haunted forests, tempests; here are subjects for your brushes, Messrs. Johnson, Gordon, and Co. However, Messrs. Johnson, Gordon, and Co. have not at all looked at the matter with their usual fancy. Never was a poem so barbarously treated. Either the Olympic is not suited to spectacle, or something was wrong the first night; for never did I see a piece go off in such a wooden and ultra-mechanical manner. All the effects were stiff and woodeny. The water did not look a bit like water, nor did the fountains. The best effect was a descending scale of pretty girls, admirably grouped and the colours well arranged; and I suppose I may congratulate Mrs. Liston on this triumph. The singing was really very bad indeed throughout, and the acting calls for no particular comment. Mr. Belmore and Mr. David Fisher struggled through the characters allotted to them; and Miss Mattie Reinhardt looked well, and acted, perhaps, if anything, with over force. The rest did their best, but very often the best was not much to speak of. I hope by this time "Undine" works smoother. When I saw it the play was at least a month's rehearsal more.

The old "Courier of Lyons" has been revived at the GAIETY, and I am surprised to find that Mr. Charles Reade thinks he is the author of the play. I know, of course, to the contrary; but if it pleases Mr. Reade to think so, I do not suppose it will hurt the three authors who at the present moment are in happy ignorance of Mr. Reade's assumptions. The revival is chiefly remarkable for the excellent acting of Mr. Hermann Vezin, who plays the leading rôle with extraordinary power; while the subordinate characters of Jolivet and Janet could not be better acted than by Miss Farren and Mrs. Leigh—certainly the most useful actress at the Gaiety. The drama is decidedly of the "blood and thunder" order; but, though three artists apart, it is generally so badly rendered that it loses most of its dramatic force. The stage-management is not very first-rate. With a little more attention, several blunders might have been avoided. It is not always possible to put enthusiasm into palpable sticks; but it is surely possible to see that the "supers" do not disgrace a theatre ordinarily so well and liberally managed as the Gaiety, is a sad and unfortunate sign.

Mr. Buckstone takes his benefit on Saturday night, and makes his annual speech. The HAYMARKET is then given up to Mrs. Scott Siddons for a week, and afterwards to some amateurs.

Many theatres are, however, holding out signals of distress, and it is generally a very bad time for managers.

ADULTERATION OF CHICORY.—A suggestive fact has been communicated to us by a brewer in the country, who was anxious to ascertain the cause of the constantly increasing value of malt sweepings, which were said to be largely used for feeding pigs. After experimenting upon his own, which daily became poorer under the trial, more minute inquiry was made, and then was discovered the real use of the sweepings—namely, to mix with coffee, which again in its turn would be sold as coffee. Can adulteration be carried to a lower depth?—*Food Journal*.

THE GREEK MASSACRE.—Additional correspondence (No. 18) respecting the massacres in Greece was issued from the Foreign Office on Monday. It consists of various despatches and inclosures from Mr. Erskine to the Earl of Clarendon, among the inclosures being extracts from the Greek newspapers. There is also an account of the execution, on June 20, of five of the condemned members of Tako's band, two of whom had to be lifted on to the scaffold by the executioners. The crowd was very orderly, but when the first of the condemned men asked for forgiveness he was answered by a yell of execration. After his execution the next brigand made the same request, but the people were so much awed that not a voice was raised.

DISESTABLISHMENT IN JAMAICA.—The bill which has been passed by the Legislative Council in Jamaica to regulate the gradual disendowment of the Church of England in the colony is objected to by some of the Jamaican dissenters, as displaying a degree of liberality to Episcopalianism which is unjust to other religious bodies. They think that "the gratuitous and unconditional transfer to one set of religionists of numerous churches, rectories, glebes, and cemeteries, originally provided out of general taxation, is an unjustifiable disposition of public property;" and is "altogether inconsistent with the principle on which it was announced the Government had to act, of not giving exclusive favour to any one denomination." They also think that the payment to the existing ministers of their full salaries until their death or resignation is equally unfair, and will operate unfavourably for the Church of England and for religion generally, as it will tend to repress the exercise of the voluntary principle.

HOLBORN VALLEY IMPROVEMENTS.—A new street was opened on Monday extending from the site of St. Sepulchre's Church, at the eastern end of the Viaduct, to a point in the Farringdon-road a few yards to the north of the Viaduct bridge, and affording direct access, by an easy slope, to Farringdon-road from Newgate-street and the Old Bailey. The new street has been called Snow-hill by the Corporation, subject to the approval of the Metropolitan Board of Works. It receives Cock-lane and King-street, and crosses the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway by a handsome bridge. The street itself is about 50 ft. wide, and is carried to the Holborn level upon arches. Like the Viaduct, it is provided with subways under the footpath for gas and water pipes. These subways are connected with those of the Viaduct itself, are ventilated through the lamp-posts, and are lighted by Hyatt's illuminators in the pavement, as well as by gas when it may be required. The subways are continued over the rail-road; and the main sewer, which receives the sewers of Cock-lane and King-street, is carried beneath, and the necessary works have been constructed without any stoppage of the trains. Farringdon-road has been repaved, and this and the opening of Snow-hill complete the Holborn Valley Improvements as they were at first designed. The Holborn-circus, the passage of Shoe-lane beneath the Viaduct, the street from Holborn-circus to Shoe-lane, and the street from Stonecutter-street to Fleet-street are all additions to the original scheme. Of these the street from Holborn-circus to Shoe-lane is in a forward state, and its footway is now passable. The carriage-way is less advanced and is still partially occupied by the house of the vestry clerk of St. Andrew's, which cannot be demolished until his offices have been provided for him. These are now in progress upon a portion of the site of the old churchyard of the parish. At the Shoe-lane end there is another obstruction caused by a corner of some premises in the occupation of Mr. Francknecht, for which so high a price is demanded that there is at present a deadlock in the progress of affairs. At this point the new street will fall into Shoe-lane as far as to Stonecutter-street, where it is to pass over the south-west corner of Farringdon Market, and to go thence in a straight line to the junction of Farringdon-street with Fleet-street. It will thus afford a direct passage from Waithman's Obelisk to Holborn, and is expected greatly to facilitate the traffic to the north-west, which now passes up Fleet-street and through Fetter-lane or Chancery-lane, crowding those thoroughfares inconveniently. The whole of the works mentioned have been carried out under the superintendence of Mr. Heywood, the engineer to the Corporation. The contractors are Messrs. P. J. Geddes and Walbourn; and the bridge over the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway has been made by Messrs. Cochrane, Grove, and Co., of Dudley, who also constructed the bridge over Farringdon-street.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

Literature.

Transatlantic Sketches in the West Indies, South America, Canada, and the United States. By GREVILLE JOHN CHESTER, B.A., Member of the Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is a curious book; oddly full of harshness and forbearance in huge contrast, and of the old enmity between Puritan and Cavalier. If the author had lived in the days of Laud he would have been an ear-cropper, a nose-sitter, and a zealous Star Chamber man; and yet here he is, dwelling on the intolerance of the old American colonisers towards Quakers and others as if he himself were tolerant.

Slight as the volume is, there is no kind of book that the Americans of the North are more concerned in answering. We have no sympathy—not an atom—with the spirit in which the book is written; but no lover of freedom and good morals can read it without sadness. The tendency of democracy to run down into tyranny is nothing new. Nor is anyone ignorant that popular despotism, and that of a peculiarly base and irritating kind, is a thing well known in the United States; especially those States whose social and political system are most nearly affiliated to the old Puritan regimen. Still less are Englishmen unaware that a deadly conflict is threatened between the majority of the States, and one, the youngest, which most logically represents the Puritan tradition of the seventeenth century. Under these circumstances (and many others) we should all have been glad of better news from the West; for, when every possible deduction is made from these chapters for the evident High-Church bias of the writer, enough remains to cry loudly for an answer of some kind or other. If the facts cannot be denied, let us at least have them stated in some other light.

We do not hold that it is any part of the duty of a government to make men moral or religious. The policeman cannot make education effective towards nobility of character, or enforce purity in the relations of men and women, or fidelity to the divine law in the relations of parent and child, or honesty in politics; but the "Constitution" of the United States professes to embody the Bible, and writers like Horace Greeley abundantly display their belief that it is the duty of the civil magistrate to compel people to be saints. Alongside of all this is heard a clamorous boast of civil and religious liberty. Now, putting together what private persons glean, what lies upon the surface of American newspapers, and what books like Mr. Chester's tell us, the result is not encouraging. Political corruption, murderous vindictiveness, commercial rascality, public indecency, and domestic and extra-domestic degradation, appear to be rampant in the Northern States. That the Southern are quite bad enough we do not doubt; but they are not now before us. We have before us a respectable newspaper that contains advertisements of such staring indecency that they would not be printed in the lowest journal that ever issued from any printing press in England. And if what Mr. Chester says, quoting from Government documents, is true, there is a decline of strictly native population in America which, judging by the accompanying circumstances, is as horrible as any fact that can be alleged of Munich or Vienna. We cannot even hint what we find in Mr. Chester; but his bitter complaints give rise to an important question.

That question is as follows: Is it in the Northern States, undoubtedly, that the *genius* of political and social freedom is most vigorous. This implies, for a time, the possibility of mob law. Now, in the same States the Puritan traditions are also the most vigorous. Can it be—we simply ask the question—can it be that the good there is in Puritanism and the good there is in freedom must result in social and political abomination till Puritanism learns that Almighty God can do without help from Policeman X, and that the Good will never be the Best till it is left to try its strength in fair, stand-up fight with the Bad? In other words, that the "constitution" and policy of the United States are a gross anomaly, and that the world is destined to learn in their outcome the last lesson of free conscience,—taught in the failure of old Puritanism and modern free thought to coalesce, both together going out in a slaughter and a stench.

The Gates Ajar. By ELIZABETH STUART PHELPS. London: George Routledge and Sons.

This book which has already partially fascinated a large number of readers, is likely to attract a considerable number more—not because it has in itself any particular element of fascination, except that it suggests, rather than narrates, a tender and beautiful story, and that it displays that "depolarisation" of ordinary forms of expression on some theological and doctrinal subjects which Oliver Wendell Holmes declares is the first practical necessity for ensuring healthy religious thought. The whole main intention of the volume appears to be to correct what may be termed not the spiritual, but the attenuated, vague, and shadowy, conceptions about heaven or "the future state;" in other words, the conditions of "the next world," which now prevail amongst most pious people; and, if in this endeavour the authoress has presented to us conditions so little differing from those which belong to us here that we sometimes shrink from the material form in which they are expressed, and wonder why, under such similar circumstances, there should be any, even apparent, discontinuity of experience by the phenomenon of death, we can scarcely quarrel with her when we know to how many poor souls this view will yield even more than a momentary comfort by the beauty and truth of its suggestive power in bringing to their apprehension the blessed humanity of God, instead of leaving them only in the presence of an awful, and too often a remote, abstraction whom it is so hard to love, and trust, and pray to, and in whom it is, therefore, hard really to believe.

Any book starting, as this does, on the assumption of this life being as it were, reproduced, even in its modes of manifestation, in a spiritual state, must necessarily exhibit many questionable, and several even contradictory and unconvincing statements, only to be explained by falling back upon such phrases as "at any rate, there will be something answering" to this or that: but its protest against the vague ideas of, and therefore actual repugnance to, a heavenly state, involved in the ordinary notion derived from coarse literal biblical interpretation, makes it valuable, notwithstanding defects that many people will think serious.

Many sayings in the book may perhaps shock some Anglican minds; but let them reflect why they are shocked, and they will see that it is because the expressions hit a weak point in what they have been regarding as a sacred subject; whereas the weak point is in themselves and the sacred subject is altogether apart from it and opposed to it. This strangely "familiar" manner of speaking of sacred things, arises from the peculiarity of the American point of view; peculiar not because of its want of reverence, but because of its simplicity of out-look. It is, in fact, equivalent to that very depolarisation of words before referred to, and for this quality "The Gates Ajar" will be a healthy book to many readers hitherto only half satisfied with mere forms of words expressing unrealised creeds. Of the exquisitely-humorous little biographical touches included in the book, and of its tender narrative, we will not speak, lest we should spoil that zest which they so naturally give to the volume.

The Body and its Health, with Teacher's Aid and Questions. By E. D. MAPOTHER, M.D. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

There are so many books nowadays intended to teach the young all about their bodies, and some of them are so much like abridgments of popular medical treatises issued by doctors who seem to publish these books as cheap advertisements, that we quite expect in all such cases to read a great deal about our digestion, and to wonder what will be the effect of such a manual on a schoolboy, with his pockets full of cocoanut and green gooseberries. The present little volume certainly contains but little of this sort, and is divided into paragraphs conveying

some information about the structure of the body; still, it reminds us of those very medical treatises to which we have referred, by a certain air of what we must call *perkinss* about it. This is so common a fault in third-rate manuals on all sorts of science, that we should not mention it except for a certain feeling common to humanity that there is no particular merit in chaffing a man's liver or being sprightly on his stomach; nor, on the other hand, is it much less offensive so to abbreviate scientific and explanatory references to our bodily arrangements as to leave it doubtful whether it was worth while to mention them at all. Medical men often display this superciliousness in their remarks to patients, and have, apparently, no idea how it lowers them in their estimation; and medical books are sometimes too much like their authors in this respect. However, almost any fault is better than prolixity; and this little volume has the merit of saying a good many useful things in very few words. That it is appreciated by those for whom it is intended may be assumed from the fact of its having reached a third edition.

Eighty-Two Illustrations on Steel, Stone, and Wood. By GEORGE CRUIKSHANK. With Letterpress Description. London: William Tegg.

Who would not wish to possess, in a convenient form, some specimens of the work of George Cruikshank, the modern Hogarth and whilom prince of caricaturists? Everybody, of course. And here everybody may have a beautiful volume of drawings, in the artist's best style, and the product of his best days; and that at a moderate cost, too. The contents are as varied as they are excellent. To begin with, there are "Gin" and "Water," which both point a moral, while the first-mentioned tells an "uncomrourif" tale. Then follow incidents from the career of Napoleon Bonaparte, from Southery's "Life of Nelson," from the "Beauties of Washington Irving," from "Sergeant Bell and his Raree Show," from "Baron Munchausen," from "Burford Cottage," from Defoe's "Plague of London," from "Knickerbocker's History of New York," from Parley's "Tales About Christmas," from the Life of Washington, and from "Hone's Every-Day Book." Each subject is briefly but neatly described, and the whole work is beautifully printed on fine-toned paper, and elegantly bound. In short, a splendid book for the drawing-room table, for my lady's chamber, and for careful study anywhere.

Gymnastics for Ladies: a Treatise on the Science and Art of Calisthenic and Gymnastic Exercises. By Madame BRENNER. London: Published by the Authorress, at 35, Bruton-street, Berkeley-square.

As health of body and grace of motion are two excellent things in woman; as gymnastics tend to produce these desirable qualities; and as Madame Brenner's system of teaching gymnastic and calisthenic exercises, as described and figured in this work, seems admirably adapted to effect its purpose, we have much pleasure in calling attention to it. The volume is very prettily got up, and contains full directions for performing all the exercises delineated in the plates, as well as an explanation of the philosophy and uses of gymnastics in general. We are sure Madame Brenner's pupils must become very superior beings to those poor pinched-up, half-smothered, inelegant creatures who pass for young ladies in these days. We wish Mr. Forster would introduce a clause into his Elementary Education Bill making the teaching of gymnastics compulsory in the national schools he is about to establish. The future "mothers of England" would then indeed be worthy of their mission, and capable of rearing sons and daughters fitted to play a part in the world such as the children of Britannia ought to perform. Madame Brenner's book is well adapted for helping on that good work.

Fun. Vol. XI., New Series. London: Fun Office.

We have just received the eleventh volume of the new series of *Fun*, and have once more to congratulate the editor, Mr. Tom Hood, on the spirit with which he and his collaborators keep up the publication. In one or two respects we might desire improvement; but, on the whole, *Fun* deserves a hearty welcome, which we are sure he will receive in thousands of homes in his collective form as he does on his weekly appearance.

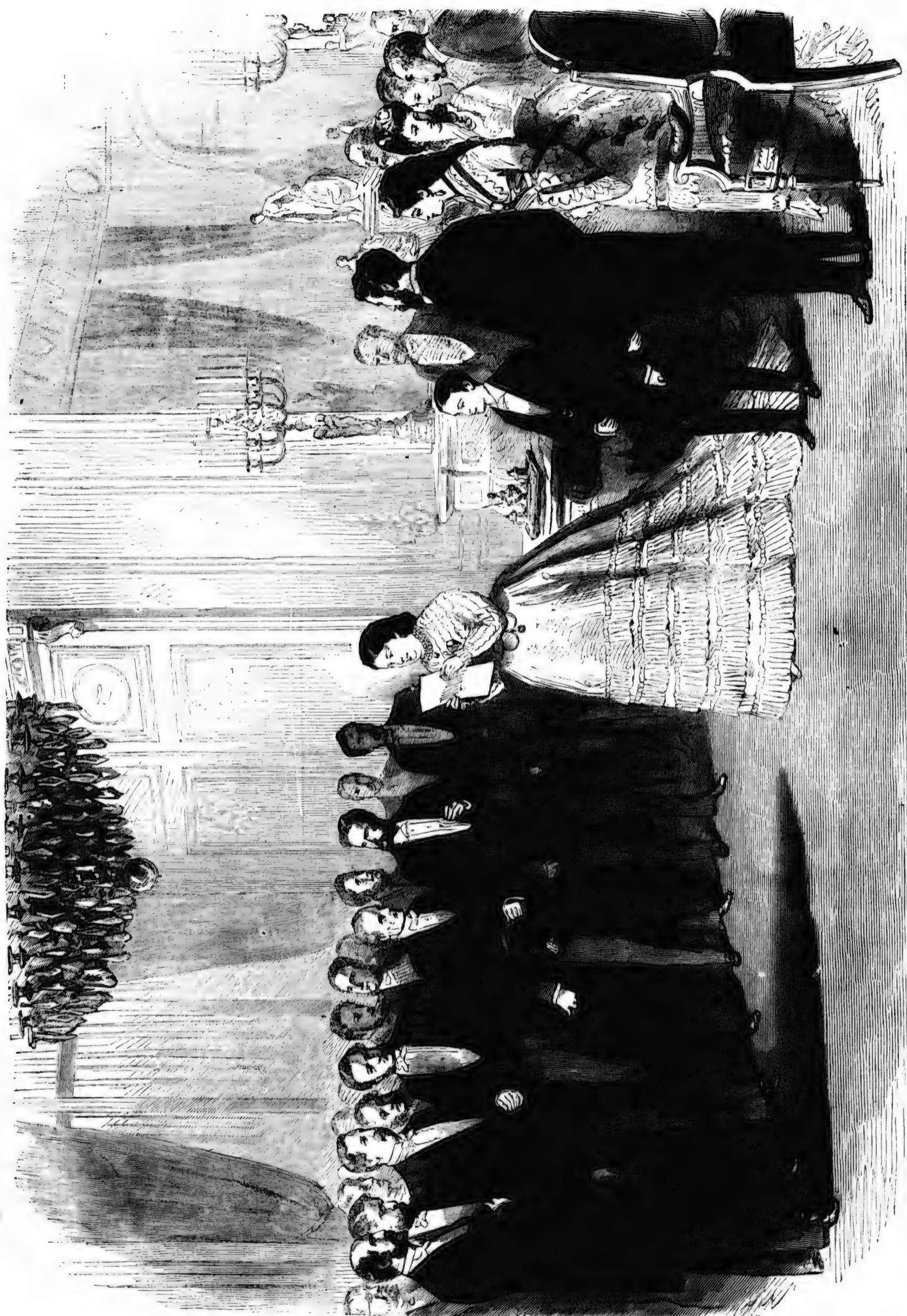
DR. ELIZABETH GARRETT.—A correspondent informs us that this lady is not an American, as we supposed, but an Englishwoman, and that she obtained her professional education chiefly in her native country.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at Leicester at the end of the present month. The meeting is under the patronage of her Majesty and the Prince of Wales; and Lord Talbot de Malahide, F.S.A., is the president for the year.

THE OCEAN YACHT-RACE.—The yachts started, about a mile to seaward of Daunt's Rock, on Monday. The preparatory gun was fired at 2.36 p.m., and the signal to start at 2.58. The Cambria was to windward; and on the last gun being fired her fore-sail immediately went up; while the Dauntless was very slow in setting her fore canvas. The wind was W.S.W. Considerable interest was manifested in the match—over seventy yachts, representing the French, English, and Irish yacht clubs, with several steamers conveying excursion parties, being present to watch the start. When the signal-gun was fired, the Cambria, being about a quarter of a mile to windward, ran up her jib and fore stay-sail instantly, and was first under way. The Dauntless set her fore stay-sail, jib, and flying-jib; but the latter appeared to get entangled, and for some minutes was not free. Meantime the Cambria was well under way, with a fresh breeze. Both vessels had their foretopmasts struck. The Dauntless appeared to sail closer to the wind than the Cambria, and while the former's sails were shaking the Cambria's appeared to set like a board. The Cambria appeared to go faster through the water. Both were going about four and a half points off the wind, heading S. by W. When disappearing, the Dauntless seemed gaining ground.

THE CABINET.—The Ministerial arrangements consequent upon Lord Clarendon's death are now complete. Lord Granville goes to the Foreign Office, Lord Kimberley succeeds him in the Colonial Department, Lord Iliff becomes Lord Privy Seal; and Mr. W. E. Forster enters the Cabinet, retaining his present office of Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education. As reconstituted, the Cabinet consists of sixteen members, a number which is not without precedent. In the Ministries of Earl Grey, Sir Robert Peel, and Lord Russell, changes took place which occasionally made the Cabinet as numerous a body as it is at present; but sixteen is a figure which has never been exceeded. In recent years the tendency has been rather to enlarge than to restrict the Cabinet, Pitt, Addington, Perceval, and Liverpool having been satisfied with ten, eleven, or twelve responsible advisers. The average age of the members of the Gladstone Cabinet is fifty years. The Prime Minister, the Home and War Secretaries, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Presidents of the Board of Trade and the Poor-Law Board, the Postmaster-General, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, and the Vice-President of the Committee of Council, sit in the House of Commons; and the Lord Chancellor, the Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal, and the Foreign, Colonial, and India Secretaries in the Lords.

MR. TREVELYAN AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Mr. Trevelyan has addressed the following letter to Mr. George Wilson, Hawick:—"I have resigned office because I am unable to support the increase of the grant to denominational schools, which is a main condition and integral part of the Government policy. A private member is at liberty to support the bill and to oppose the grant, but a member of the Government can make no distinction between different portions of the scheme. I regard this matter as one, not of expediency, but of right and wrong—just as a Conservative would regard a proposal to curtail the powers and resources of the Established Church. The election which preceded the abolition of the Irish Church was welcomed by a large section of the Liberal party as an opportunity for protesting against the public endowment and recognition of creeds. It is not every day that the people in general get firm hold of a broad, simple, and true idea as an article of political faith; and to inspire such an idea is the only method of extending political education through the mass of the community. Nothing has tended so much to elevate and ennoble public opinion as the conviction of multitudes of electors that, in voting for religious equality in Ireland, they were establishing a rule of policy which would influence the decision of all religious and educational questions throughout the entire kingdom. On the other hand, I do not know anything which will more profoundly demoralise public opinion than the discovery that a principle in which men have learned to believe, and for which they have made great sacrifices, is supposed to have only a partial application; and that, after dealing a deathblow to the endowment of denominations in Ireland, we are to spend additional hundreds of thousands a year on denominations in England. Nothing but the belief that a vital principle is at stake would justify me in leaving a Government which has made good so many claims upon the respect of the country."



THE EX-QUEEN OF SPAIN READING HER AbdICATION IN THE HOTEL BASILEVSKI, PARIS.

DEMONSTRATION AT LISBON IN FAVOUR OF MARSHAL SALDANHA.

We have already published some illustrations of the progress of the present political excitement in Portugal, and our Engraving this week represents one of the most recent demonstrations in favour of Saldanha in the streets of Lisbon. It was held only a fortnight ago, and took the form of a kind of torchlight assembly, accompanied by a band, for the purpose of serenading the chief in whom the people are invited to put their trust. The question is how much a popular cause will really gain by the new government which, though it decrees the liberty of the press, the right of public assembly and of association, and other liberal measures, after all presents some of the features not only of dictatorship but of a military dictatorship, under which nations have long ago learnt the value and permanency of such promises.

THE AbdICATION OF EX-QUEEN ISABELLA.

The abdication of Queen Isabella was enacted with very great pomp and ceremony. So far from making a mournful business of renouncing a throne, she made a gay toilette for the occasion. Her Majesty wore a rose-coloured silk dress profusely covered with white lace; a splendid parure of pearls, and a diamond girdle; and, with that command of countenance which seldom fails to reward long practice in the performance of royal functions, put on an extremely merry look. As she took her seat in a throne-room, Don Alfonso, Prince of Asturias, her eldest son (who is about the age of the Prince Imperial of France) stood on her right hand, simply dressed in a short black jacket and knickerbockers; next to him was the Infant Don Sebastian, youngest and only surviving son of Charles IV.; on the left of the Queen were Queen Christina, her children, and the Count d'Acuña. Don Francisco d'Assise (Isabella's husband) was, it seems, invited, but did not come. The young Duke of Seville, son of Don Henry de Bourbon, lately killed in a duel by the Duke de Montpensier, was also invited, but excused himself from attending. He is in the service of the present Provisional Government of Spain, and will not in any way countenance the pretensions of Isabella to dispose of the crown. Among the witnesses of what in the Hotel Basilewski was called the "grand act" were Generals Lersundi, Gasset, and San Roman; the Dukes of Medina Celi, De Sesto, De Rianzares, D'Arco, De Rivas, and De Rinaldo; the Marquises de Bedmar, De Casa Iruja, and Penn Floridas; Counts Marca, De Goyeneche, D'Espeleta, D'Albacete, De Rubio, De Guel y Rente, De Coello, &c. When every one of the company had taken the place assigned by the master of the ceremonies, Queen Isabella made a short speech, announcing her intention to abdicate. She read a manifesto to the Spanish people, in which she traced the history of her reign. She had been called upon to reign, she said, when in her cradle, and had grown up amidst the turmoil of civil discord. Whether as a child, a girl, or a woman, she had always had to contend with political parties and factions, and to their incessant attempts to obtain power for themselves she attributed her failure to do all the good which she could have wished. She wished, however, to avoid all recrimination, she pardoned all her enemies, and confided her son to the noble character of the Spanish people. She then read her abdication in (nearly) these terms:— "I, Isabella II., &c., declare that of my own free will and mere



THE LATE M. ARMAND BARBES.

motion, and without any foreign pressure, I cede and assign to my son Alfonso all my political rights, reserving only the civil rights of a mother and a guardian."

All the personages present signed their names as witnesses to the document. Then the company, with Dowager Queen Christiana at the head, kissed the Prince of Asturias's hand by way of doing homage and acknowledging his sovereignty. When the ceremony was over the youthful King of Spain *in partibus*, who had doubtless been considerably bored by the solemn mummery, ran up to the Duke de Sesto, and said, "You haven't seen my new velocipede; come into the garden and look at it."

THE LATE M. ARMAND BARBES.

Our obituary of last week contained a notice of the death and an outline of the career of Armand Barbès, the indomitable French

Republican, of whom we now publish a portrait. It is unnecessary to repeat the particulars already given, and we shall therefore content ourselves with placing before our readers the following anecdote, which is told on the authority of a person who saw Barbès on his deathbed. When Barbès first took refuge in Holland the French Government made an application to the Dutch Cabinet requesting that all letters written by or addressed to him might be seized in the Post Office and forwarded to Paris. This request was indignantly refused; and M. Dunker Curtius, the then Minister of Justice at the Hague, sent a secretary to Barbès asking him, if not inconvenient, to call at the Ministry, and to say that, if he preferred it, the Minister would call upon him. Barbès, who wondered why he could be wanted, and hated fuss and parade, decided to wait on the Minister. M. Dunker Curtius then told him that he had received an "infamous" proposal from France, that he had met it as it deserved, and that he wished to tell M. Barbès himself that his person and his correspondence would be perfectly secure in Holland.

THE EGYPTIAN SLAVE TRADE.

In the last issued series of correspondence relative to the slave trade there is a remarkable letter from Sir Philip Francis to the late Earl of Clarendon on the Egyptian slave trade. Sir Philip writes:—

"Although the local authorities at Constantinople, in their communication on this subject, usually simulate the European views on the slave trade, professing a desire to see the trade, if not the institution itself, suppressed, and proffering their concurrence to prevent Egyptian ships carrying on the traffic; yet I totally disbelieve their professions and utterly distrust the genuineness of the means they propose with the ostensible object of preventing the export of slaves. They suggest, as I understand, to establish a rule that no negro shall travel from the port of Alexandria without an official certificate having been given that he or she is free; but such certificates could be, and I do not hesitate to say would be, supplied to any dealer, pacha, bey, or effendi who wanted them; and the production by the slave-master of such a certificate would be used as conclusive against further inquiries and prove the best passport which could be desired.

"The giving of such certificates would involve only one advantage that I can conceive—namely, that of enabling some post official to extort backsheesh. Further, if a practice of giving certificates were maintained, even for a few months, which might possibly be the case, it would degenerate into a form which would cost dealers more or less money; but assuredly the poor wretches, ignorant and hopeless as they are, who were certified to be free, would never be able to take advantage of the proposed certificates made in their favour. The trader would thus be able to carry on his contraband commerce with impunity, while no Turk travelling with his family would free his slaves in order to procure a certificate for the voyage. It seems to me, indeed, absurd that this or any other plan proposed by, and to be executed by, persons who themselves own, purchase, and sell slaves could be genuine in intention or valid in its operation.

"I presume it is not the intention of her Majesty's Government to demand a right of search of Turkish ships, or establish an effective scrutiny into the real character of supposed black and white slaves forming part of the cargo of steamers under the Sultan's flag. On this presumption, then, only one plan, in my opinion, can be devised for preventing the export of slaves out of



DEMONSTRATION AT LISBON IN FAVOUR OF MARSHAL SALDANHA.

Egypt—namely, to prohibit their import into Egypt. And there is only one person who could initiate and adopt this plan, and he is the Khedive. Cairo, as the metropolis, is the great dépôt of slaves. Mr. Consul Reade some two or three years since made a personal investigation into the slave trade and slave markets of Cairo and Tantah; and, though there are other towns also where the traffic is pursued (such as Siout and Kenné), yet he showed, I think, that Cairo is its head-quarters. Now, the trade to Cairo might (if the Khedive so ordered it) be easily intercepted on the Nile, the great highway for this as well as other trades, while the land roads from the deserts also might effectually be watched. If the will existed the means are at hand for arresting the trade entirely.

"But, at the risk of appearing too presumptuous, I beg to offer my opinion that the will does not exist, and that no real effort will be made to prevent or diminish slavery in Egypt, nor the traffic in question. To pacify European opinion, and to satisfy the complaints of civilised Governments, there might be issued some orders on the subject, and plausible representations might be offered on the part of the Viceroy; but the trade will always be allowed to flourish here, unless, indeed, a complete revolution should take place in Egyptian society and its moral sense, or some modification of the religion of the country be experienced—events we have no right to count upon."

"When one discusses the subject with an intelligent Turk or an Egyptian he generally urges, first, the necessity of slavery in the harems; secondly, its general convenience, and its long establishment as an institution; thirdly, its peculiarly mild character in this country; and, fourthly, the benefit which the negro derives from being brought out of barbarism into civilisation. Now, although it is highly probable that if slavery could be resolutely suppressed, and the supply of the harems cut off, there would follow a modification in this as in other social arrangements, and what is supposed to be a necessity would prove to be only customs and usages, for which others might be substituted; yet there is weight in this harem argument which is always much dwelt upon, and the Moslem gentleman resents the idea of our interfering with his domestic arrangements. The others of the above arguments we are familiar with, as having always formed part of those propounded by partisans of slavery in other countries. Especially with regard to the alleged benefits derived by the negro, no Egyptian slave-owner can prevail upon himself to perceive that the wretches who are perpetually hunted like wild beasts naturally become and remain barbarians, nor does it seem to strike a pacha that it is unfavourable to agriculture, trade, and the material progress of tribes to have their villages burned, their young men fighting or flying from capture, their women and children carried off for sale. The governing powers of Egypt, and the mass of its people, believe they derive advantage and wealth from slavery, and, like other interested persons, they are not likely to be moved by argument, nor will they sympathise with any effort which may be made or affected to be made to prohibit what they deem profitable to themselves."

OBITUARY.

THE MARQUIS OF LOTHIAN.—The Marquis of Lothian died, on Monday afternoon, at his residence at Clapham. The deceased Marquis had for some time been in indifferent health. The late Right Hon. William Schomberg Robert Kerr, Marquis and Earl of Lothian, Earl of Ancrum, Viscount of Briene, Baron Newbottle, Jedburgh, Ker of Nisbet, Long Newton, and Dolphinstone, and Ker of Newbottle, Oxnam, and Jedburgh, all in the Peerage of Scotland; Baron Kerr of Kerracheugh, in the county of Roxburgh, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, was the eldest of the four surviving sons of John William Robert, seventh Marquis, by Lady Cecil Chetwynd Talbot, daughter of Charles, second Earl Talbot. He was born Aug. 12, 1832, and married, Aug. 12, 1857, Lady Constance Harriet Mahonese Talbot, eldest surviving daughter of the late Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot. The late Peer, who succeeded to the Marquiseship on the death of his father, in November, 1841, leaves no issue. The late nobleman was educated at Christ Church, Oxford, at which University he took high honours, having been first class in classics in 1853, and first class in jurisprudence and modern history in 1854. The deceased Marquis is succeeded by his brother, Lord Schomberg Kerr, born Dec. 2, 1833, and married, in 1865, to Lady Victoria Scott, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch.

MR. W. G. SIMMS.—The death of William George Simms is announced in the American papers.—Mr. Simms was born in Charleston in 1806, of Scotch-Irish parentage. He began life as a barrister, but became the editor of a daily paper in Charleston, and in 1825 made his first appearance as an author, with a "Monody on General Charles Cotwright Pinckney." He published five volumes of poems subsequently, and in 1833 a novel, entitled "Martin Faber; the Story of a Criminal." From this period Mr. Simms devoted himself chiefly to fiction.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

DUBLIN CITY.—Sir Dominic Corrigan is the Liberal candidate for the city of Dublin. No Conservative candidate is yet announced, and it is expected that Sir Dominic will "walk over."

BRECON.—Mr. Gwynne Holford has come forward as Conservative candidate for Brecon. Mr. Powel Price is seeking the suffrages of the Liberals.

NORWICH.—Mr. Huddlestane Q.C., has come forward in the Conservative interest. Two Liberals—Mr. Tillett and Mr. Warner—are in the field.

TOWER HAMLETS.—Owing to the existence of a rumour that a vacancy in the representation of the Tower Hamlets may be caused by the appointment of the First Commissioner of Works to an office under the Crown, either in our Indian empire or the colonies, the various political parties amongst the electors are making early preparations for an anticipated electoral campaign.

IRRIGATION.—A Hampshire farmer writes thus on the subject of irrigation:—"My farm is a heavy clay, and, having suffered very much from the drought, I determined to utilise, if possible, a small stream running through my farm. For this purpose I had the stream dammed up, and procured a centrifugal pump from John and Henry Gwynne, of the Hammersmith Ironworks, which is capable of raising from 200 to 300 gallons per minute 40 ft. high. This pump I had screwed on to an ordinary farm cart, so that I might move it anywhere it may be wanted. I have to raise the water 20 ft. high, and I deliver it along wooden shoots made of 12-inch boards, 3 in. thick, and 20 ft. long. The boards are simply nailed together in a V shape, and strengthened with three strips nailed across, one in the middle and one at each end. The cost of these shoots is less than 5d. a foot, and I consider them better than hose, as more power is required to force the water through those; they are very portable, being so light, and with ordinary care would last a long time. The engine I am using is a 6-horse portable, and with 30 lb. of steam the pump readily discharges its full quantity (as much as can pass through a 4-inch pipe) 20 ft. high; with a little more power the water could be raised 40 ft. or 50 ft. I intend, should we get no rain, to irrigate all my root crops, and the expense is a bagatelle compared with the great benefit which must ensue."

MASSACRE OF FRENCH SUBJECTS IN CHINA.—We learn on the authority of a telegram from Tien-Tsin, dated the 25th ult., that, on the 21st, an organised outbreak took place in Pekin. The mob, whose fury seems to have been directed chiefly against the French and French priests, murdered the Secretary of Legation, M. Rochefort (who was acting as Chargé d'Affaires), the French Consul, and the whole of the French priests and Sisters of Mercy. The cathedral erected in pursuance of treaty stipulations was burnt to the ground. Three Russian subjects were included in the massacre, probably through some mistake, as other foreigners were not molested. On the 22nd the mob, having wreaked their vengeance, dispersed. If this very serious intelligence prove to be true, it is obvious that the gross outrage to the French flag must call for immediate punishment and reparation. Russia will, of course, second France in the matter; nor is it likely that other nations liable to such atrocious insults will refrain from giving the strongest moral support, and possibly material assistance, to the Powers concerned in the vindication of the sacredness of diplomatic functions, the honour of European flags, and the protection of the lives of their subjects from premeditated massacre.—*Morning Post.* A despatch received in Paris from Pekin, dated June 22, giving particulars of the recent outbreak, states that order was restored in that city on the 22nd, and that foreigners had no longer any cause for apprehension.

MUSIC.

MONDAY and Tuesday were both "first nights" at Covent Garden, the honours being equally shared by Mesdames Lucca and Patti, who appeared, respectively, as Angela, in Auber's "Domino Noir," and as the heroine of "I Puritani." Auber's opera had not been heard for two years, and every amateur of the great French master's charming melodies, and clear, artistic writing, felt interested about its revival. Even those who are not Auber's special admirers must have been gratified by the change from the ordinary run of Italian music; a change, that is to say, from the sensational, or the trivial, to genuine art of the purest order. Madame Lucca essayed the part of Angela for the first time, and, as might have been expected, did her work in her own way, without much reference to precedent. Of course there was a certain charm about the impersonation, because Madame Lucca is always interesting when on the stage; but we doubt if the character, as a whole, was presented in the best manner. The artist mistook its meaning on more than one point, and gave us an Angela with a decided talent for, and enjoyment of, intrigue. The real Angela, we need hardly say, was nothing of the kind. Love tempted her to a foolish adventure, and the attendant dangers, so far from giving zest to pleasure, were actual objects of fear. As regards singing, Madame Lucca was even less happy. Neither her voice nor training has qualified her for the florid music of the French school; and we have rarely heard a more slovenly performance of Angela's bravura air in the last act. True, the audience encored it, but the fact remains as we have stated, all the same. On the whole, then, Madame Lucca's new impersonation was not one of her most successful efforts. The other characters were fairly well sustained, that of Isabella excepted, to which Madile Madigan gave no significance whatever. The Horace of Signor Naudin is familiar, and can be passed with a simple acknowledgment of its merit; but a word of especial praise must be given to Signor Ciampi for the excellence of his Gil Perez. It is not often that we have the pleasure of commanding this gentleman, and we therefore do it now all the more warmly. He represented the old convent porter with admirable humour, and sang the masterly "grace before meat" with an unctuousness impossible to resist. The air was encored, and deservedly. Respecting the performance of the "Domino Noir," as a whole, we must express regret that the system of giving so many representations each week inevitably injures the efficiency of band and chorus.

Tuesday's performance we must pass, for the very sufficient reason that M. Thomas's "Mignon" at Drury Lane had greater claims upon our attention, and of what was done at Covent Garden we know nothing. Here we may appropriately mention that an absurd report which appeared in the *Paris Journal* apropos of "Esmeralda" has been promptly contradicted by Signor Vianesi. Our contemporary stated that the second performance of Signor Campana's opera was postponed because the members of the orchestra were drunk. To English readers such a story would only give occasion for laughter at editorial credulity; but on the Continent, where it is popularly believed that Englishmen are always "under the influence of liquor," it might be accepted as true, and therefore Signor Vianesi's unqualified denial was both necessary and useful.

The production of "Mignon" at Drury Lane was a success as great as those most concerned could wish. M. Thomas's opera (first brought out at the Opéra Comique in 1866) appeared at Baden last year, in an Italian dress, with Madile Nilsson as the heroine. Such was the impression made that its performance on the Anglo-Italian stage became merely a question of time—of very brief time, as the result has proved. The plot of "Mignon," we need scarcely remind our readers, is based upon Goethe's "Wilhelm Meister," but the librettists (MM. Barbier and Carré) took great liberties with both characters and events. So unlike, in point of fact, are the novel and the drama that it is not unfair to call them distinct things. Mignon herself is changed from a child into a woman who is jealous of Filina in a very ordinary fashion, and who does not die, but lives to triumph over her rival, as thousands of other women have done. We need say no more than this to show that the opera has little in common with Goethe's story. The plot, however, is interesting, skilfully constructed, and arranged for lyrical purposes with singular felicity. M. Thomas's music shows him to greater advantage than he appears in "Hamlet," where the composer has aimed at something out of his measure. Throughout, it is melodic and well sustained, while the contrast between the sentimental portions and those expressive of strong passion is admirable in its force and truthfulness. In other respects the work does M. Thomas honour. The parts for voices are well written; and the orchestration lacks nothing of brilliant colour and striking effect. Great pains had been taken with the rehearsals, some of which were superintended by the composer in person; and the actual performance was every way a success. Madile Nilsson justified the anticipations indulged in by her friends, making the French Mignon as much like the Mignon of Goethe as circumstances would allow, and singing from beginning to end in a style little short of perfection. There were passages which showed her abilities to greater advantage than ever before; notably the scene where she discards her page's dress, and puts on the robes of Filina; notably, also, the scene in which she recognises the place of her birth and the portrait of her mother. No contrast could be wider; yet in both Madile Nilsson satisfied the most critical. She was recalled time after time, and applauded with enthusiasm. Madame Volpini was an excellent Filina, and went far to divide the honours with Madile. Nilsson herself, by right of effective singing and intelligent acting. Madame Trebbi did justice to the small part of Federico; Signor Bettini was careful and efficient as Wilhelm; and M. Faure, as Lotario, acted and sang like the genuine artist he is acknowledged on all hands to be. Signor Gassier (Laertes) and Signor Raguer (Jarno) completed the cast effectively; and both band and chorus did singularly well with their unfamiliar work. At the close, Madile Nilsson was called three times; and M. Thomas twice had to bow his acknowledgments.

If we say nothing about concerts this week, it is because there have been no concerts suggesting anything to say.

LORD PRIVY SEAL.—Sir Charles Dilke, being of opinion that the post of Lord Privy Seal is a sinecure, gave notice, on Monday night, of his intention to move a resolution in favour of its abolition. Respecting the duties of the office there is little information. Ancient authorities tell us that the occupant of the post "has the custody of the privy seal, which he must not put to any grant without good warrant under the King's signet. This seal is used by the King to all charters, grants, and pardons, signed by the King before they come to the Great Seal." In former times the duties were performed by an ecclesiastic; and in the reign of Henry VIII. the post was filled by Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, and afterwards by Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of London. In the present day the Lord Privy Seal is necessarily a peer and a member of the Cabinet; and in these respects he differs from the Chancellor of the Duchy, who may, at the discretion of the Prime Minister, be a member of the House of Commons and a subordinate member of the Administration. Attached to each of these sinecure offices is a salary of £2000 a year.

CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE IN LIVERPOOL.—The ninety-fourth anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in Liverpool, on Monday, with more than usual éclat. All the American ships in port, together with the steamers belonging to the Cunard Company, the Inman Company, the Queen Company, the National Company, and the Allan Company, were gaily dressed with bunting. Flags were also displayed from nearly all the American houses and shipping offices. In Birkenhead, also, there was a good display of bunting, and the Cunard steamer Scotia was trimmed from truck to rail and from stem to stern. In the Sloyne the same company's steamer Calabria was also gaily dressed. We may state that the display of flags on board the Cunard steamers had a double significance, inasmuch as it was not only a recognition of the United States Independence Day, but also a commemoration of the anniversary of the establishment of the company—the first steamer of the Cunard line, the Britannia, having sailed on her first voyage, from Liverpool to Halifax and Boston, on July 4, 1840—thirty years ago. The company's fleet of Atlantic mail steamers now number twenty-five of the largest and most powerful steamers afloat, which is exclusive of their coasting and Mediterranean fleet.

A NEW UNDERGROUND RAILWAY.

MR. S. B. ROBERTSON, the solicitor to the projected Mid-London Railway, stated to the Metropolitan Board of Works that the promoters of the Mid-London Railway propose to construct a station under ground, by the side of the Euston station and in immediate connection therewith, to be solely devoted to carrying the great local traffic to and from that point to Camden, Holborn, the Strand, Waterloo, Cannon-street, London Bridge, and the stations on the lines of the South-Eastern Railway, as well as the London and South-Western Railway and the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, without interfering in any way with the London and North-Western traffic in and out of Euston. The proposed line would effect the most direct junction that could be made between the 1479 miles north and 1274 miles south of London—making together 2753 miles. The proposed line would commence at the Camden station, pass southwards under High-street, Eversholt-street, Seymour-street, Woburn-place, Southampton-row, the west side of Lincoln's-inn-fields, cross Holborn and the Strand, pass to the west of Norfolk-street, cross the north Embankment, the river Thames, Stamford-street, and run into the Charing-cross railway by a curved junction at a point east of Cornwall-road. The proposed stations on the line would be at Camden Town, Mornington-crescent, Euston station, High Holborn, the Strand, and at its junction with the Charing-cross line. The steepest gradient would be 1 in 114, except a short rise of 1 in 40 into Euston station, where such a rise might be an advantage. The great depth at which the line would run from the Strand northwards would enable the tunnel and stations to be constructed with a minimum amount of interference with the sewers and roads, and, consequently, with the public traffic in the streets. From Euston-square to the south side of Lincoln's-inn-fields there would be no disturbance of the surface of the streets. The construction of a station on the site of the houses between Norfolk and Surrey-streets would enable Norfolk-street to be widened to 60 ft., thus making a good approach to the Strand from the Embankment. It was proposed to carry the railway over the Embankment and river by an elegant bridge, giving ample headway over both, and without in any manner injuring the appearance or disturbing the traffic of the Embankment roadway. The engineers considered that it was impossible to make any junction with the South-Eastern Railway at Charing-cross or elsewhere with so little detriment to the river and Embankment road. The union of the London and North-Western and South-Eastern Railways by the Mid-London route, and the construction of the road over, would put the great legal centres of Lincoln's-inn, the Middle and Inner Temple, Gray's-inn, the Bedford-row district, and the new courts and offices of law in direct communication by railway and road with all parts of the metropolis. With regard to the proposed Mid-London-road, intended to run part of the distance with the railway, the surveyors estimated the gross cost of buying sufficient property to make a 60 ft. road from Vernon-place, Southampton-row, to the Strand, as well as the opening into Theobald's-road, at £500,000. The promoters suggested that the net cost of this should be borne equally—one half by the Mid-London Railway Company and the other half by the Metropolitan Board of Works.

HARVEST PROSPECTS.

ENGLAND.—The rain, so long desired and urgently required upon the farm, has at length fallen, and that abundantly. The grass pastures have wonderfully revived, and it has been almost the salvation of every root crop. The many gaps in the latter are hopefully filling up, and we now have every prospect of a fine root crop. All the members of the cabbage tribe, too, are looking well and most promising; even the meadows have commenced a second growth, so that a fair supply of hay may be expected. It has rejoiced the heart of every farmer; the congratulations are universal.—*Chamber of Agriculture Journal.*

SCOTLAND.—The prospects of the west country agriculturists, favoured with a continuation of fine seasonable weather and refreshing showers of rain, continue to be cheering. Haymaking has commenced in the early localities bordering the Clyde, and the crop is generally turning out well. It is finely mixed with clover, and, although in the drying process it may yet be affected by the weather, the yield is heavy. Wheat on all the well-farmed lands continues to look as vigorous as in any season during the most favourable years, and there is no reason to doubt it will turn out, in both grain and straw, a fair, if not an average, yield when harvesting arrives. In some fields the crop is beginning to show in the ear, and promises well. From present appearance we are inclined to think that oats and barley will reach a fair average, while beans will be over average. Potatoes have now been cleaned, and although they have not come up so regular on some lands as could be wished, yet on the whole they look well. The early braided turnips have come away vigorously since the middle of the month, and thinners have been at work upon them for some time. In some fields the early sorts are completed. Some of the late fields have braided but indifferently, and they would be greatly benefited by a few heavy showers of rain. The gardens are looking well, and the fruit prospects in the Clydeside orchards have not been so good for many years past.—*North British Mail.*

IRELAND.—A Limerick correspondent of the *Daily Express* speaks in the most hopeful terms of the prospects of the approaching harvest. The great feature of the year is that no crop is likely to prove deficient. The cereals are all in excellent condition; turnips also promise well, and have so far escaped the ravages of the fly; potatoes are likely to prove a most abundant crop, and of excellent quality; and he estimates that Ireland will be able to spare from 30 to 40 per cent of her hay crop.

FRANCE.—The Paris *La Patrie*, of July 5, gives some calculations made in provincial journals on the state of the crops. In the Midi the drought has resulted in advancing the harvest, which is now in full progress, and it has not exercised so baneful an influence upon the products of the soil as might have been expected. In most districts the crops of cereals will even be abundant, and as there have been no storms, the grain is being reaped in excellent condition, without the loss of a single ear, so that it is certain that the harvest will be good. In the Lot the grain crops are magnificent. The budding of the vine, which is in its second stage, seems to promise an abundant vintage. Meadows and artificial grasses only have suffered, and still suffer, from the drought. In the Gironde the wheat, in spite of the great drought, looks well, the ears flourishing and very heavy. The crop will certainly be good, and it may even be said certainly very good, and we may rely with equal confidence on its quality. In the Tarn harvest has been going on for the last few days. The blade is not tall this year, but the ears are very fine, so that we may expect a very heavy crop. The vines all over the district are magnificent. In the Landes the vine stocks are in very good condition, and in certain vineyards the fruit is already formed; but if only a little rain were to fall it would prove of great benefit. In the Charente Inférieure the vines are shooting vigorously. The blooming is just over; no appearance of the fruit dropping off is to be seen. It is, therefore, hoped that the two principal crops, corn and wine, will be satisfactory. The news from the Centre and the Est are not so favourable. In many places the wells and ponds are dried up, and the inhabitants are placed upon rations of water. In the Nord the effects of the drought are much less perceptible. In the Ouest the loss is chiefly in the hay-fields, which, in some places in Normandy, have been almost entirely unproductive. In the Loire Inférieure hay is being cut, and future rains are relied upon for the chance of a second cutting or an abundant aftergrowth.

PRINCE NAPOLEON and suite, including M. Réan, landed at Peterhead, on Tuesday, and proceeded to Aberdeen. The Provost and French Consul conducted the party to various places of interest, and on Wednesday they left for Inverness, to return to Peterhead by way of Banff.

POLICE.

THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC.—Richard Hughes, sen., and his son, of the same name, were charged, at the Thames Police Court, on Monday, with assaulting Police-Constable No. 99 K. The complainant (Shortlin) stated that at one o'clock on Sunday morning he was on duty in Lyon's-causeway, in Limehouse, when a woman came to him and said she had been robbed by the younger prisoner. He ran away, and witness pursued and captured him. The elder prisoner and his wife came out, and, after inquiring why their son was in custody, rescued the prisoner. Witness followed him into a shop, and the young man turned upon him and struck him on the head with a poker; the elder prisoner also struck him with a shovel; and then the younger prisoner gave him another blow with a pair of tongs, at the same time kicking him violently about the legs. The elder Hughes said his son should not be taken into custody, and it became necessary to spring a rattle for assistance. Two other constables came up, and the two prisoners were given into custody. The constable was severely cross-examined by Mr. Charles Young, on behalf of the defendants. It was elicited that the policeman had told the younger Hughes to "move on" when he was talking with a friend; that, as he did not obey promptly enough, the policeman kicked him. He then ran after Hughes, and said he should take him up for robbing a woman. Witness denied that he had struck the elder prisoner. Police-Constable No. 378 K said that on Sunday, at one o'clock, he went to Three Colt-street, Limehouse, and found the last witness (Shortlin) at the door of the prisoner's house. They could not open the door, and he and another constable forced it open, and took the prisoners into custody. Mr. Young said that the younger prisoner came home and complained to his parents that he had been ill-used by a policeman. The elder Hughes went out and remonstrated with the constable Shortlin, who drew his staff and struck the elder prisoner on the head with it. They had a struggle, and got to the door. Henry Hughes, a lad who is not related to the prisoners, confirmed generally the statement made by Mr. Young, and said that he saw Shortlin kicking the younger prisoner. The father came out and asked the police-constable why he was striking his son, on which Shortlin turned on the father and struck him with his truncheon. The policeman went into the house, and the elder prisoner turned him out, and said he had no business there. He never saw either of the prisoners attempt to strike the constable. The policeman made another blow at the elder prisoner, who caught the staff in his hand. Charles Smith, a lad, gave similar evidence, and said he saw Shortlin go up stairs, come down again directly, and take the fire iron from the grate, but he was certainly not struck with them. Mr. Lushington sent for the police-sergeant who took the charge, but he threw no additional light upon the matter. The magistrate also examined Shortlin's helmet, and said, if he had been struck on the helmet as described with a poker, there would have been some mark or indentation upon it. He could not rely upon the evidence of either constable. He saw no reason to disbelieve the testimony of the witnesses called by Mr. Young, and discharged both prisoners.

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS IN HOSPITALS.—Mr. J. C. Steele, the superintendent of Guy's Hospital, was summoned, last Saturday, at the Southwark Police Court, for having caused the body of a deceased person to undergo anatomical examination without the permission of those holding legal possession. A man named Milbourne had died in the hospital, but before the remains could be removed by the surviving relatives, a post-mortem examination had been made without their permission, and to their great dissatisfaction. The defence was that without such an examination it would have been impossible to ascertain the cause of death. It was also contended that the course complained of was taken in the interests of medical education. Mr. Benson, the magistrate, was of opinion that when a body was claimed by the relatives, and they had arranged to take it away, the hospital authorities had no right to dissect it without leave. He adjourned the hearing in order to give the managers of the hospital an opportunity of consulting their legal adviser.

THE BRIXTON BABY FARMERS.—More revelations in connection with the baby farming case at Brixton were, on Wednesday, elicited at the Lambeth Police Court. One branch of the investigation which now been entered upon charges the prisoners with having obtained both children and money under false pretences. Waters having alleged in these instances that she was a married woman. A fourth infant has died in the workhouse; and some of the children intrusted to the care of the prisoners have not since been heard of. Some light was thrown upon their disappearance by a former servant, who stated that at one time she suddenly missed a little girl named "Davis," as well as "Little James," and on another occasion, on asking Waters "where little Arthur was?" the prisoner bade her say nothing. Taking her up stairs the witness was shown "Little Arthur," six weeks old, lying dead in a back room. She had no idea what became of the body, as there was no funeral. The prisoners were once more remanded.

"FALSE NEWS."—At Marylebone, on Tuesday, Arthur Esmond, a compositor, living in Church-street, St. Giles's, was charged with obtaining one shilling fraudulently. Mr. Edward Stibel, a merchant, said whilst walking along Westbourne-terrace, about ten o'clock on the previous night, he heard two men, of whom the prisoner was one, shouting out as loudly as they could, "Important News—Death of the Emperor Napoleon!" Prosecutor asked him what news he had, and he replied, "The shooting of the Emperor." He said he would give prisoner sixpence to allow him to look. Prisoner said he could not think of doing that; that he was selling his papers at a shilling each, and had already sold twenty-seven. Prosecutor gave a shilling for one, and found no mention of the Emperor's death. He told prisoner he was propagating false news, and after some abuse from him he gave him into custody. Prisoner said he was calling out the evening paper, when prosecutor offered him

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"Rice-Flour is Corn-Flour, and I regard this preparation of Messrs. COLMAN'S as superior to anything of the kind now before the public."

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"I have made a very careful Chemical and Microscopical examination of the sample of COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR, and have found that it is very carefully manufactured, and a GENUINE article. I can highly recommend it as a palatable and a very digestible and nutritious food."

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a shilling for one, and after looking at it he wanted his money back. He said nothing about the "Emperor's death." The prosecutor denied that statement. Mr. D'Eyncourt inquired the name of the paper. Mr. Stibel said the *Globe*. The officer said the prisoner was in the habit of shouting false news at the West-End. Mr. D'Eyncourt remanded the prisoner for a week. There was no other way of dealing with the case but to send it for trial.

FORTUNE-TELLING IN LONDON.—At the Clerkenwell Police Court, on Wednesday, Susan Lee, aged twenty-five, residing at 12, Lower Queen-street, Islington, was charged before Mr. Cooke, on remand, with obtaining, since June 13, by fraudulently representing to Catherine Anne Prillard that she would tell her fortune, three dresses, three nightgowns, four petticoats, two jackets, and one pair of stays, her property, and of the value of £3. She was further charged with obtaining from the same person, the property of her employer, Mrs. Thomson, 5, Beresford-terrace, Highbury New Park, one pair of sheets, three pillow-cases, one toilet-cover, and one tray-cloth, of the value of £1 10s. It will most likely be remembered that the prosecutrix alleged that the prisoner had obtained the clothes to "put them on her planet" for the purposes of divination. Further evidence was now taken, among other items being one that the prisoner had already suffered two years' hard labour for a similar offence. She was committed for trial. A similar case was heard at the Middlesex Sessions, where Mary Butten, a repulsive-looking woman, was indicted for stealing a pair of boots, the property of Martha Hemming. There was a second indictment against her for obtaining, by means of false pretences, from Lydia Tyler, four dresses, two petticoats, and two jackets, her property, with intent to defraud. There was a third indictment, for obtaining from Martha Hemming, by means of false pretences, a shawl, a dress, chemise, two skirts, and two dresses, her property, with intent to defraud. There was also a fourth indictment against her, for obtaining wearing apparel from Susan Baker by false pretences. In all the cases the victims were foolish servant-girls, who had been persuaded to lend their clothes to one or other of the planets. The jury found the prisoner guilty. The Judge, having expressed his astonishment at the enormous cruelty of these girls, who had been the victims of the prisoner, sentenced her to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for twelve months.

VERY HORRIBLE STORY.—A shocking story is told by a Spanish correspondent of the *Standard*:—On the outskirts of Castile de las Guardias, a village some eight leagues from Seville, stands a small, unpretending farmhouse, tenanted by a hitherto thriving and industrious labouring man and his wife. They had not been married very long, and a baby had just arrived to complete their domestic happiness. Among the acquaintances of this young couple were a gipsy and his wife, with whom they were on very friendly terms, the gipsy man being employed as an agent in the disposal of the farm produce and in the purchase and sale of animals, &c. On the birth of the child, therefore, the gipsy couple wished to

be its sponsors, and the request was readily granted. The baptismal day having arrived, the whole household, with the exception of the mother and the gipsy woman, who remained in attendance, proceeded to the church, a distance of two miles. After everybody had left, and sufficient time had been given for the party to get well out of hearing, the gipsy woman, armed with a pistol, approached the bedside of the invalid, and threatening her with death in case of refusal, demanded of her all the money that was in the house. The poor woman, without a moment's hesitation, indicated that all their small fortune was in a drawer in the lower part of a chest in an adjoining room. No sooner had the gipsy entered this room to obtain the cash than the invalid jumped out of bed, ran to the door, secured the woman inside, and, seizing her husband's trabuco, or blunderbuss, rushed outside the house to the window by which the gipsy might escape, and, presenting the gun, threatened her with instant death if she moved, at the same time raising loud cries for help, which, unhappily, no one appears to have heard. In the meanwhile the christening party were on their return. Meeting two of the guardia civil, mutual compliments passed, and the soldiers were asked to come to the farmhouse and partake of the modest fiesta prepared for the occasion. This proposal and its ready acceptance must have somewhat disconcerted the gipsy man, for he now proposed to run before to see that everything was ready, and begged to be allowed to carry the child. On reaching the house he at once perceived that his design had in some way miscarried. Approaching the woman at the window, he desired her to let his wife go free or otherwise he would kill her child. Disbelieving the threat, she declined, and without another word the man whipped out his knife and with one blow nearly severed the little innocent's head from its body and tossed the quivering corpse upon its mother. Maddened by this horrible act, the woman turned her gun upon the man, and laid him dead at her feet. The explosion and screams brought the guardia civil almost instantaneously to the house, one of whom, rushing in and unlocking the door where the gipsy was confined, was at once shot through the heart by that woman. The second guardia civil, hearing this second explosion, hurriedly entered the house, and, seeing his comrade dead on the floor and the woman with the still smoking pistol in her hand, raised his carbine and killed her where she stood.

SERVING ON JURIES.—Lord Enfield's bill has been under consideration by a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and should have a fair chance now of becoming law. The bill abolishes the practice of nominating a special jury for each special-jury cause in London and Middlesex, but allows a Judge to make an order for a special panel in any case in which he may think it expedient. At the sittings in London and Middlesex thirty special jurymen are to be summoned for each court to try special-jury causes at the sittings, not (in case of necessity) keeping each jurymen to the court to which he is summoned; and the special jury upon a trial are to be balloted for, and called in the order in which they are drawn from the box, in the same manner as common jurors. The remuneration of jurors is to be one guinea to a special juror summoned to try

special-jury cases for every day of his attendance, and 10s. a day to jurors trying common-jury cases. A juror is not to be liable to a penalty for non-attendance unless he has six days' notice of his being required to attend; and no person is to be summoned or liable to serve as a juror in more than one court on the same day; but a person on the special-jurors' list is not to be exempted from serving as a common juror. With the consent of the functionary issuing the precept for summoning jurors the Sheriff may make regulations as to the days and times during which they are to attend, and send the regulations with the summons. The qualifications of special jurors are defined, and the overseers in making out the jury-list are to mark the persons qualified as special jurors. A list of exemptions from service as jurors is given, but no person whose name is in the jury-book will be excused unless he claims his exemption at or before the revision by the justices. No person is to be liable to serve on any jury or inquest (except a grand jury) more than once in a year, unless all the jurors upon the list have been already summoned to serve during the year. The clauses for paying the overseers for making out the lists, and for requiring the guardians to examine them before revision by the justices have been struck out. To make assurance doubly sure, it is expressly declared that "in this Act the word 'juror' shall mean male persons only."

CAPTURE OF SWINDLERS.—The submarine telegraph has been the means of securing the perpetrators of some extensive frauds in New York, and of recovering no less than £32,000 of the produce of their knavery. Two brothers, who had been tobacco merchants in New York, named Scitez, obtained fraudulent possession of goods of the value of £35,000, which they managed to dispose of, and then absconded. It was suspected that they had sailed by the Ottawa, for Glasgow, and, the authorities being "wired," the vessel was boarded on its arrival in the Clyde, and the runaway arrested, with a large portion of the money in their possession. They will, under the treaty of extradition, be sent back to the United States in custody.

CAB LAW.—By permission of the South-Eastern Railway Company, a private fly proprietor named Tunbridge has supplied the Cannon-street station-yard with a superior class of brougham for the accommodation of the passengers alighting there. These vehicles (three in number) have been extensively patronised, more especially by ladies, who preferred them to the ordinary cabs. The broughams had not, however, been brought within the provisions of the Hackney Carriage Law Amendment Act of last year, and Tunbridge was, on Tuesday, summoned at the instance of the Commissioner of Metropolitan Police for having unlawfully plied for hire. The Lord Mayor held that the law was against the Commissioner, and dismissed the summons.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JULY 1.

BANKRUPTS.—S. BARKEV, tea- and bread, corn chandler—G. C. VILLE, Northgate-street, Maize, potato-sellers—Sir R. C. D. TICHBORN, Brompton—J. THOMPSON, Old Cavendish-street, milliner—E. E. DAVIES, Harterton, clerk in holy orders—I. PRIESTLEY and J. ROOPER, Horton, worsted stuff manufacturers—L. YORK, Welmesbury, engineer—J. REVETT, Kelvedon, Bremen victualler—H. H. SYKES, Nottingham, tailor—J. VAUGHAN, Hull, fruit and potato merchant—H. THOMPSON, Liverpool, provision merchant—A. URQUHART, Sunderland, grocer—J. T. P. WESTBY, Kirkham, SCOTCH. **SEQUESTRATION.**—J. BRODIE, Bathgate, baker.

TUESDAY, July 5.

BANKRUPTS.—H. A. EDWARDS, Upper Thames-street, newspaper proprietor—W. MEISENHEIMER, Islington, baker—G. BULUS, Birmingham, edge-tool manufacturer—T. DALLOE, Droitwich, butcher—W. FARBO, West Deeping, farmer—J. HAWCROFT, Sale—W. HIORNIS, Liverpool, baker—J. C. HOARE, Little Hadham, farmer—R. KING, Plumstead, builder—J. ONIONS, Nether顿, ironmaster—W. and E. STANLEY, Morpeth, watchmakers.

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Sold by Chemists, Perfumers, and by the Manufacturers,

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A DVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a Chemist and get a Bottle of Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless; it produces sleep, and the child will be soon as bright as a button. It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, softens the gums, relieves all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhoea, whether arising from teeth- or other causes.

Sold by all Medicine Venders, at 1s. 1d. per Bottle.

TRADE**WEALTH IS**

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Sole Manufacturer, 14, Wigmore-street, Cavendish-square.

When you ask for

GLENFIELD

STARCH,

see if you get it,

as inferior kinds are often substituted

for the sake of extra profits.

TENDER FEET.—All Unpleasantness and

Soreness from Perspiration prevented, and the Skin strengthened, by using McDougall's SCENTED CARBOLIC TOILET SOAP. For the tender flesh of Infants it is the most

strengthening and soothng in its effects.

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TIRIED. Sacred Song. Music by Miss M. LINDSAY (Mrs. J. W. Blisse). No. 1, 1d. far. No. 2 in D. Each free by post 1s stamp. It is not at all improbable that this song will shortly rival in popularity her well-known songs "Far Away" and "Re-signation."—*Vide "Brighton Gazette."*

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It is really simple, and yet perfectly effectual. The most profound secrets might be written, they would never be found out except by the person for whom the message was intended.—*Illustrated Times*, June 18.

The press are unanimous in praising this little work, and the notices which have appeared are so numerous that it is impossible to quote them from each. The opinion, therefore, of this journal only need be quoted here.

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